



PARKS & REC TAKES KORE  
ON THE ROAD

SUMMER IN THE CITY'S  
ONE LOVE DAY

GET TO KNOW CHRIS HOWLEY

DEPARTMENT NEWS

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES



# CITY WORKS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE

## Road Testing the New Mobile Recreation Program for Knoxville's Youth

Long before this summer's launch of a traveling recreation program in Knoxville, Sheryl Ely and her Parks and Recreation staff were brainstorming new ways to reach more children and their families.

"Serving the kids we need to serve in the 21st century looks very different from many years ago," says Aaron Browning, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation. Most of the City's recreation centers were built on a grid that has dramatically changed in 50 years.

"This means we want to meet people where they are."

"This idea of a mobile outreach program was Aaron's brainchild, and now it's a reality," says Sheryl Ely, Director of Parks and Recreation.

After attending a 2016 U.S. Conference of Mayors gathering, the City applied for and received a \$125,000 obesity grant in 2018.



That was the start of the Knoxville Outdoor Recreation Experience Mobile Outreach – a new traveling recreation model designed to combat obesity and

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## Mayor's Message



**Mayor Madeline Rogero**

Welcome to the summer edition of City Works!

In this edition, read about how our creative Parks and Recreation team is taking its programs on the road – literally. The colorful new Knoxville Outdoor Recreation Experience (KORE) vehicle is traveling to parts of the city where there is no nearby recreation center. KORE has brought games and recreation opportunities to several hundred children so far.

You can also get to better know veteran Stormwater Engineering Chief Chris Howley. In the “10 Questions” section, Howley talks about everything from problem-solving to hiking the Smokies to music festivals.

Finally, find out how our Summer in the City interns envisioned a service project – One Love Day – and how it has blossomed into a legacy. The campaign to increase awareness of hunger and to encourage volunteer action will continue each year.

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

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

### Mobile Recreation: continued from page 1

provide recreational activities in Knoxville’s socioeconomically deprived communities.

After much research and an onsite visit to see a sister program in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the staff was ready to design a program for Knoxville communities where access to summer recreational programming is challenging.

Parks and Recreation staff members essentially created fun and playful physical fitness adventures, packed them in a new truck wrapped in a whimsical, colorful design, and have been hitting Knoxville’s roads four days a week with a new outdoor experience for the city’s youth.

Dan Frye, the graphic artist in the Communications Department, designed the wrap.

“Where better to take our new KORE outreach truck than to our neighborhood parks,” Ely says. “Our

parks are in neighborhoods where people can get there and enjoy them.”

Ely says there are a number of areas in Knoxville where there is no recreation center – like Mechanicsville, for example. But Danny Mayfield Park is in that neighborhood and is well-used.

“Our 94 City parks are the best idea for the KORE mobile program,” she says.

Launched June 3, the program is being held four days a week at six parks: Malcolm-Martin Park, Danny Mayfield Park, Zaezion Dobson Park, Ashley Nicole Playground, Paul Hogue Park and Harriet Tubman Park.

Parks and Recreation staff is collaborating this summer and fall with many organizations for feedback, suggestions and best outcomes, including the University

**Mobile Recreation: continued on page 3**

## Employee Anniversaries

### 10 years

Nick Bradshaw  
Arturo Cano  
Kevin Kurt Carlson  
Doug Gordon  
Denise Roberts Johnston  
Andrew Simeon Markham  
Elie Ray Muncey  
Angela Dianna Schmidt  
Charlie Thomas  
Cory Eugene Thompson  
Richard Thomas Woodby III

### 15 Years

Miguel Bourne  
David Dyer  
Traci McDonell

### 20 years

Kevin Carroll Bost  
Lucas Steven Barnes  
David Bryan Branch  
Brian Edward Buchanan  
Tommy Stuart Chaffin  
Monica Ann Eslinger  
Diana Spence Fox  
David Brickey Frazier  
Thomas Christian Glenn  
Vivian Danise Hatfield  
Christopher George Karnes  
Robert Key, Jr.  
Joshua Adam Lane  
Randall Shane Love  
Casey Todd Mink  
Jeff A. Nichols  
Dale Allen Patterson  
Matthew E. Perkinson  
Gregory Lynn Phillips  
Douglas Dean Simmons  
Edward Cyril Stokoy  
Evelyn Davis Thomas  
Donald William Tipton, Jr.  
John Mark Wilbanks



## Employee Anniversaries

### 25 years

Randall Keith Black  
Jamie Sue Cross  
Yolanda Lynn Crowe  
Michael Richard Cummings  
William Michael Graves  
Gregory Michael Grayson  
Michael Andrew Harper  
Jason William Keck  
Joseph Peter Mattina  
Terry Lynn Walton  
Anita M. Watson

### 30 years

Jerry Lynn Armstrong  
Randall Charles Maynard  
Benny Eugene Mitchell  
Ernie L. Pierce, III  
Timothy Mark Snoderly  
Douglas Ray Stiles  
Damon Curtis Underwood  
Gregory Scott Williams

### 45 years

Cynthia A. Gass  
Larry W. Spencer

## Departmental News & Notes

### Office of Neighborhoods

Congratulations to Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator Eden Slater, who was the #1 overall female at the Xterra Knoxville Triathlon.



### KPD Celebrates Top Annual Awards

KPD at an April 1 luncheon celebrated its top annual awards and announced Lt. Keith DeBow as the recipient of the Mike Waggoner Leadership Award.

[Read more online](#)



Officer Barry "B.K." Hardin was honored as the Purple Heart recipient. [Read more online](#)

**KPD Annual Awards: continued on page 4**

### Mobile Recreation: continued from page 2

of Tennessee Extension Office, Knox County Health Department, Ijams Nature Center, Legacy Housing Foundation, Great Schools Partnership, Knoxville-Knox Community Action Committee, Knoxville's Community Development Corp. and the UT Department of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport Studies.

Megan Gerlach, City Recreation Specialist, creates program ideas and organizes the KORE truck for the park events. Gerlach and an intern travel to the parks four days a week for the events.

A lot of games and activities are packed into the truck for kids: 9-square in the air, giant cup stacking, dodgeball, colossal lacrosse, chalk hopscotch, gaga ball, spikeball, big parachute games, obstacle courses, arts and crafts, and hoola showdown.

With healthier nutrition also being a part of this program, Gerlach uses the playfulness of games to teach healthy eating and healthy living. The children are learning about nutrition and building muscle. And there's a healthy snack at each park event.

"My goal was to give our children the

chance to run, jump and play where they live," says Ely. As of mid-July, several hundred have participated in the new program at the six parks.

"I'm pretty thrilled at how well it's going in such a short period of time," Gerlach says.

"With any program launch like this, we're looking ahead for an even better summer next year. We've learned a lot. We know afternoons make for a better experience. And we're looking to increase our community partnerships," Ely says.

**Mobile Recreation: continued on page 5**

# Summer in the City Interns' Legacy: One Love Day

Each year, the City of Knoxville's Summer in the City interns spend six weeks embedded in City departments, getting to know how the City operates and how its departments and employees serve Knoxville residents.

In addition to completing departmental tasks, interns collaborate on a group project that helps them get to know each other and learn through experience how important their efforts as public servants and volunteers can be.

This year's class tackled the major issue of hunger in our community with a campaign to raise awareness as well as donations.

They named the campaign #FeedKnox. The interns set a goal to reach as many people as possible and ask them to donate their time, money or canned goods to area charities that work to prevent and resolve hunger. Reaching that goal included engaging City employees to help spread the message.

Like all good campaigns, this one led up to a party: #OneLoveDay was celebrated on July 25, at Christenberry Recreation Center.

Voodoo Cadillac, a band comprised of current and former Knoxville police officers, entertained the crowd with blues rock hits.

The night concluded with a sing-along of the song that inspired intern advisor Kent Johnson to suggest the project's mission and name: "One Love" by Bob Marley. The lyrics got stuck in his head during his commute to work: "One love, one heart / Let's get together and feel all right."

Johnson took the opportunity to announce that the fourth Thursday of July is now #OneLoveDay and a new annual tradition for getting Summer in the City interns, City staff and neighbors together to address one problem in our community.

—Paige Travis

## Departmental News & Notes

KPD Annual Awards: continued from page 3



Lt. Brian Evans and Sgt. Josh Shaffer were Co-Officer of the Year honorees.

[Read more about Lt. Evans](#)



[Read more about Sgt. Schaffer](#)

KPD Annual Awards: continued on Page 6







**Mobile Recreation: continued from page 3**

Children participating at this summer’s KORE mobile program at parks don’t have to register, and there’s no fee.

Browning says the diversity in ages of children attending means staff must be flexible with activities and “change on a dime,” depending on the neighborhood and age of the children.

“One of the great aspects of this program is that we’re reaching older children who have aged out of programs at recreation centers. They’re coming to neighborhood parks and seeing this great colorful truck, and then they find out about a whole new summer experience,” Ely says.

City Parks and Recreation offers 10 summer programs throughout Knoxville, and about 900 children participate in these fee-based programs. Additionally, 10 after-school programs at recreation centers round out the robust year.

“What we’re doing this summer with



this new mobile program is step one in the infant stage,” says Browning. “As we grow, our hope is to involve the whole family.”

As its first mobile summer program comes to a close early August, the Parks and Recreation team is already planning for another first: a KORE Mobile Outreach school year

program that launches this fall.

“We’re just scratching the surface with this outreach,” Browning says. “There’s so much ahead.”

—Mary Leidig





Above: Chris Howley and his wife Kristi enjoying time in Greece.

## “The 10” with Chris Howley

### 1. Tell us about yourself, Chris. Where are you from?

I am a long-time native Knoxville. I was born and raised in this area and really love it. With the exception of living in New Hampshire for a year while growing up and living in Atlanta for my first engineering job, I have always been here.

### 2. How long have you been working with the City of Knoxville, and what is your role here?

I have been with the City for a little over 22 years. During that time, I have held a few different positions that have all been in the Stormwater Division of the Department of Engineering. In my current position, I oversee the various aspects of the Stormwater Division, including constructing stormwater projects, resolving flooding and water quality problems, GIS mapping, reviewing plans and plats for new development, and making sure things get built right!

### 3. How many employees work with you? Tell us about your staff.

I have about 30 on my staff. They are a great group to work with, which is one of the things that makes my job enjoyable. They have a wide variety of backgrounds. Some have only been with the City for a year or two, and a few have been with City longer than I have. It is great to have both kinds of folks who have the history of how things have occurred and also those with a fresh perspective. Early this year, our space in the City County Building was redesigned and reconfigured, and the Plans Review and Inspections team has joined us on the fourth floor. It has been great year getting to know and working closer with this group.

### 4. What do you enjoy most about your work with the City?

I have really enjoyed seeing the transformation of our City. In working for the City for a fairly long time, I

**10 Questions: continued on page 7**

## Departmental News & Notes

**KPD Annual Awards: continued from page 4**



Technical Services Supervisor Julia Small was named the 2018 KPD Employee of the Year.

[Read more about Julia Small](#)



Teddy Goldman was honored as 2018 Explorer of the Year.

[Read more about Explorer Teddy Goldman](#)

**KPD PRESENTED OFFICER OF THE MONTH, COMMUNITY SERVICE AND UNIT AWARDS ON MAY 1.**



Officer James Vesser was honored with an Officer of the Month Award.

[Read more about Officer Vesser](#)

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have been impressed with how much measurable change has occurred: Downtown, South Waterfront, outdoor recreation, etc.

**5. For new graduates in engineering, what would you recommend to them as they start out in their professions?**

Be flexible and versatile. Understand that most of what you do will be “problem solving.” Prioritize in all that you do, and learn as many skills as you possibly can.

**6. Tell us about your family.**

My wife’s name is Kristi, which many find funny since our names are so similar. She is a dietician and works for Children’s Hospital with children who have diabetes or cystic fibrosis.



**Chris Howley and his daughter at the top of Mt. Katahdin, the endpoint of the Appalachian Trail in Maine.**

We have two “kids.” My son is 26 and works for Kroger, and he enjoys

skateboarding, snowboarding and traveling. Our daughter is 24 and is

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## Departmental News & Notes

KPD Awards: continued from page 6

Community Service Awards were presented to Lt. Brian Bush, Sgt. Sam Henard, Sgt. Phil Major and Sgt. Tammy Mattina.



[Read more about Lt. Brian Bush](#)



[Read more about Sgt. Sam Henard](#)



[Read more about Sgt. Phil Major](#)



[Read more about Sgt. Tammy Mattina](#)



[Read more about the Safety City Unit Award](#)

Unit Awards were presented to the Special Crimes Unit and to the Safety City team.



[Read more about the Special Crimes Unit Award](#)

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starting her third year in Pharmacy school. She likes walking her dog and backpacking when she gets a break from school.

**7. You are quite the music fan. Tell us more about the kinds of music you enjoy and some annual music festivals you don't want to miss.**

I like a wide variety of music, which is one of the reasons why I like to go to music festivals. You always get the opportunity to hear music that you would have never been exposed to otherwise. I also feel that live music has more energy and excitement than just listening to songs through

your headphones. I am excited about the "Exit 111" music festival this fall, as it has a great lineup including Lynyrd Skynyrd, Def Leppard, ZZ Top and Guns and Roses.

**8. Also, since you love music, do you play an instrument, and have you played in a band?**

I used to play the saxophone and was in the school band but stopped playing in middle school. I currently have a guitar that I try to play, but I am quite the beginner.

**9. What other pastimes do you enjoy?**

I love to spend time outdoors and

many things I enjoy are just that — hiking, backpacking, running, mountain biking, skiing, kayaking, fishing, triathlons and other races. I also really enjoy traveling to new and different places. My daughter and I have regularly hiked sections (each section is usually about 100 miles) of the Appalachian Trail during summer vacations. I think we have completed about 600 miles so far.

**10. Finally, what has surprised you the most in your work with the City?**

How fast the time has flown by! The past 22 years seem like it has only been five or so. —Mary Leidig

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## Departmental News & Notes

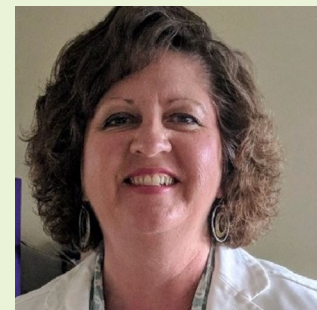
### KAT

This spring, Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) announced the retirement of Chief Operating Officer Beverly Campbell after a 30-plus-year transit career in Knoxville. KAT hired a new Chief Human Resources Officer, Julie Glibbery, and promoted Odell Draper to Chief Operations Officer.



Beverly Campbell

### Pension



Kristi Paczkowski

Congratulations to Kristi Paczkowski and the City Pension System staff! For a seventh consecutive year, the City of Knoxville pension system staff has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by a leading professional association. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada recognized the City's pension system and its 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management, according to GFOA.



Russ Jensen

### 311

Russ Jensen has been elected to a two-year term as president of the Tennessee Alliance of Information and Referral Systems. TNAIRS connects people in need with community resources that provide help. Its membership includes comprehensive information and referral services, such as 2-1-1, and specialized services, including aging and disability resource agencies



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## Departmental News & Notes

### Finance Receives Distinguished Budget Award

For 30 years in a row, the City of Knoxville's Finance Department has been honored for its pioneering efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and for providing an excellent example for other North American governments. Finance has again been recognized by a leading professional association for its commitment to meeting "the highest principles of governmental budgeting." GFOA has awarded the Finance Department a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

## Newsletter Contact Information

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

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Coming Soon!

**DOGGIE DIP DAY**  
SPECIAL "DOG ONLY" SWIM

**INSKIP POOL**  
4204 BRUHIN RD, 37912  
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 8, 2019**  
1PM TO 5PM

### Discount Car Wash Club!

Don't forget that employees of the City of Knoxville get exclusive pricing at Zips Car Wash. For more information see the City Benefits email that was sent on July 15, 2019.

**EMPLOYER SPECIAL PRICING**  
FOR UNLIMITED CAR WASH CLUBS

City of Knoxville

- UNLIMITED PROTECT IT CLUB** \$24.95
- UNLIMITED WAX IT CLUB** \$19.95
- UNLIMITED SHINE IT CLUB** \$17.95
- UNLIMITED CLEAN IT CLUB** \$9.95

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[zipscarwash.com](http://zipscarwash.com)



### 2019 Third Quarter Education Schedule

DAY	DATE	PLACE	TIME	TOPIC	CLASS NAME	PRESENTER
Wednesday	8/14/2019	City County Building - Room 461	11AM	My Managed Health	Understanding White Coat Hypertension	Mary Rouleau, RD RN
Tuesday	8/27/2019	Safety Building - Training Room	11AM	My Whole Health	Eat to Beat Disease	Barbara Foster, RD
Wednesday	9/11/2019	City County Building - Room 461	11AM	My Financial Health	Understanding Your Credit	Amy Moffitt, First TN
Monday	9/16/2019	Public Works Complex - Community Room	2PM	My Managed Health	Understanding White Coat Hypertension	Mary Rouleau, RD RN
Wednesday	9/18/2019	Safety Building - Training Room	1PM	My Managed Health	Understanding White Coat Hypertension	Mary Rouleau, RD RN

Safety Building - 800 Howard Baker Jr. Ave  
Public Works Complex - 3131 Morris Ave.  
City County Building - 400 W. Main Street

Use the Class Sign-Up Tool to Register:  
<http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/employees>  
Or call The Center at 215-6150