

# CITY WORKS



NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE

## Robust Go Vote! Knoxville Public Meetings Connect Candidates and Voters

This summer, Mayor Rogero and members of City Council took Go Vote! Knoxville on the road.

As part of the nonpartisan civic-engagement initiative, public meetings were held in each of the five City Council districts where voters this year will be electing a new representative.

A sixth and final meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 7, in the 5th District, at the Christenberry Community Center, 931 Oglewood Ave.

This summer's meetings in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th districts featured the 30 candidates vying for the five open seats in those districts. The 5th District Council seat is not on the ballot this year, so the Sept. 7 meeting will feature the

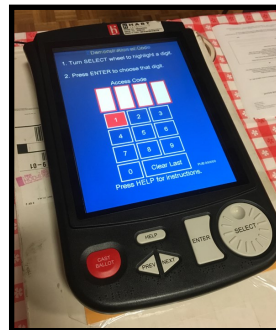


10 primary election winners, who will be running citywide in the Nov. 7 general election.

Go Vote! Knoxville is designed to encourage community dialogue and increase voter turnout in this year's City elections.

It's doing just that.

Averaged out, about 100 people attended each of the district meet-ups. Candidates met with community leaders and business owners and talked about local and citywide issues, while Election Commission staff registered voters and demonstrated the mechanics of the voting machines.



*See Go Vote! Page 4*

**AUGUST 2017**  
**VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4**



[www.knoxvilletn.gov](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov)

### EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

#### 10 YEARS

Paul Chester Boher Jr.  
Cynthia Ann Ellison  
Jackie Lynn Eppes  
Gwen Winfrey

#### 15 YEARS

Wayne R. Bailey Jr.  
David Brace  
Billy Dalton Jr.  
George David Daws  
Tony Falkner  
Jimmy Johnson  
Randy Todd Williams

#### 20 YEARS

Jonne Lynn Crick  
Charles McCurdy  
Karen Stinnett



## Mayor's Message



**Mayor Madeline Rogero**

Welcome to the August 2017 edition of City Works. I hope you have all had a great summer with family and friends. It's hard to believe it's already time for school to start again. It has been a busy summer for some of our departments, as we've been promoting local voter engagement and turnout with our Go Vote! Knoxville initiative. You can learn all about that in this issue, including links to information about the upcoming City Council races. I encourage all of our employees who live in the City of Knoxville to pay close attention to these races.

You'll also get to know more about April Jones, who is a familiar face and voice to those who visit or call the Mayor's Office. April is the first person people encounter when they enter the office, and she does a great job making everyone feel welcome and respected, whatever their concern. She is a great example of the kind of dedication and customer service that City of Knoxville employees show every day.

**Follow the Mayor:**

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

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

## Department News & Notes

### FIRE

• Congratulations to the 2016 Firefighters of the Year: Assistant Chief Jim Arnold, Capt. Dale Patterson, Capt. Pete Hayes, Senior Firefighter Chris Hill and Senior Firefighter Erica Behning.



L to R: Fire Chief Stan Sharp, Assistant Chief Jim Arnold, Capt. Dale Patterson, Capt. Pete Hayes, Senior Firefighter Chris Hill, Senior Firefighter Erica Behning and Mayor Madeline Rogero

The five firefighters were recently honored for their actions on March 13, 2016, when they saved two lives in a smoke-filled apartment building on Inskip Drive.

The team entered a burning apartment and pulled two unresponsive residents to safety. "It's no coincidence that our firefighters seem to always be in the right place, at the right

time," Mayor Madeline Rogero said. "They immediately know what to do, and they do it skillfully, even if it means putting themselves in danger to help a stranger. That says a lot about the quality of their training, but even more importantly, it speaks volumes about their courage and their character."

### PURCHASING

• Penny Owens, the City's new Assistant Purchasing Agent, was recently selected to be a Chapter Ambassador for Region 3 of the Institute for Public Procurement (formerly known as the National Institute of Government Purchasing). Penny will serve a three-year term, representing Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan and Ontario, Canada. Duties include visiting multiple chapters each year, attending the NIGP annual Leadership Development Symposium, attending an Ambassador meeting and the chapter president's event during annual forum, moderating and participating in the Chapter



**Penny Owens**

*See Department News Page 5*

## EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

### 25 YEARS

Anthony Wayne Buckner  
Jeffrey Lynn Conard  
Stephen Scott Lee  
William Dennis McCain III  
John Albert Nicely Jr.  
John Richard Rodgers Jr.  
Bryan Curtis Sharpe  
Michael Wayne Smith  
Joe Walsh

### 35 YEARS

Michael Vandergriff

## FITNESS CLASSES - CITY COUNTY BUILDING

### MONDAYS

12:00 PM Body Strengthening w/Kent - FREE  
1:00 PM Line Dancing Aerobics w/Kathy \$10 month/\$3 class  
3:00 PM Open Group Class DVD - FREE  
4:40 PM Group Class 21 Day Fix DVD - FREE

### TUESDAYS

11:30 AM Open Group Class DVD - FREE  
12:30 PM Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Leslie - \$8  
1:30 PM Group Class Biggest Loser DVD - Free  
3:00 PM Group Class 21 Day Fix DVD - FREE  
4:00 PM Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Leslie - \$8

### WEDNESDAYS

11:30 AM Open Group Class DVD - FREE  
12:30 PM One-on-One Thai Yoga w/Leslie \$20 per 40 min. Session  
1:30 PM Group Class Biggest Loser DVD - Free  
3:00 PM Group Class 21 Day Fix DVD - FREE  
4:40 PM POUND® w/ Ginger Huskey

## 10 Questions with April Jones

You'll usually find April Jones sitting at the big, brown horseshoe desk in the Mayor's Office, answering calls from Knoxville's concerned citizens.

Always friendly and helpful, April has worked for the City for 15 years.

A 2000 graduate of Fulton High School, Jones' first job in 2001 was with Parks and Recreation. Soon, she was hired as an Assistant Recreation Program Specialist. She moved to the Mayor's Office under Bill Haslam, and she's been here ever since.

The Knoxville native and mother of three says she'll be going back to Pellissippi State Community College this fall.

"I've always wanted to finish school not only for me but also for my children," she says. "It's hard to express to my children the importance of going to college with me not finishing it myself; I want to set an example."

The heartbeat of the office is usually near her desk. Whether it's Kevin Perry launching a quick dialogue, or a citizen walking in and needing directions, or Paige Travis erupting into a boisterous laugh at one of her jokes, April's radiant personality invites people to share a few minutes with her.

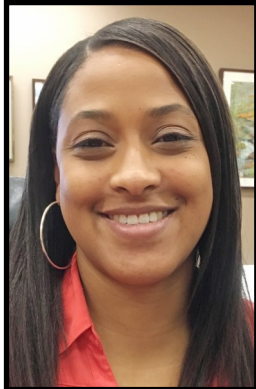
"I really enjoy my job and enjoy building relationships with co-workers," April says. "My job allows me to stay in contact with different departments within the City of Knoxville, which allows me to learn a lot about the City's operations, but thankfully everyone is always extremely nice and helpful when I call with questions or citizens' concerns/complaints."

### 1. How did you start working for the City?

When I started, it wasn't anything permanent. I was 19, looking for something to do while in school. I started out in Parks and Rec, helping out in the administrative office. It just went on from there; I applied whenever a job became available. From that first job, I've been here for the past 15-16 years.

### 2. What's your role in the Mayor's office?

I am an Administrative Assistant in the Mayor's Office. I sit in the front to greet guests and



**April Jones  
Administrative  
Assistant**

answer the phone when people call in.

### 3. How did you become the Mayor's Office Administrative Assistant?

I actually started working in the Mayor's Office under Gov. Haslam's administration. When Mrs. Jean James retired, I took over her role.

### 4. How do you handle difficult callers?

It's kind of disappointing when you get the angry callers and you're not able to help them, but it's just part of the job. You just try to still be kind and help them as much as possible.

### 5. I understand your mother also works for the City. How did that influence you to work here?

I actually started before her, so you could say I influenced her. I think I was here a couple of years before she started working in Parks and Rec. But it's been awesome having my mom working for the City. We're really close.

### 6. What would you consider the most interesting part of the job?

The most interesting part of my job has been working under three mayors.

### 7. School starts back soon. Have any of your children made plans for tackling the new school year?

Right now, we're tackling summer projects; summer programs are winding down right now. My oldest daughter plays basketball for Fulton, so we've been doing a lot of summer practicing. She's worked hard this summer.

### 8. What do you like to do in your time off?

I like to read and also travel. I've been on a couple of vacations this summer. Traveling has been real big this year.

### 9. How were your vacations?

I got to go to Las Vegas and Miami this year. Vegas was the more busy vacation with all the sightseeing, but Miami was definitely the more relaxing, lying on the beach. I gambled \$40 in Vegas and lost \$40 and called it quits. I would say I enjoyed Miami more because I was able to relax.

### 10. Any favorite show or movie you've seen over the summer?

I just saw "Spiderman: Homecoming." I've never been big on superhero movies, but the movie is awesome. I would definitely recommend it.

- Summer in the City intern Jamar Coach

## FITNESS CLASSES - CITY COUNTY

### THURSDAYS

11:30 AM	Open Group Class DVD - FREE
12:30 PM	One-on-One Thai Yoga w/Leslie \$20 per 40 min. Session
1:30 PM	One-on-One Thai Yoga w/Leslie \$20 per 40 min. Session
3:00 PM	Open Group Class DVD - FREE
4:40 PM	Group Class 21 Day Fix DVD - FREE

### FRIDAYS

11:00 AM	One-on-One Thai Yoga w/ Leslie \$20 per 40 min. Session
12:00 PM	Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/Tiny - FREE
1:00 PM	Group Class Biggest Loser DVD - Free
3:00 PM	Open Group Class DVD - 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 w / Kathy, \$10 month/\$3 class
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### WEDNESDAYS

5:15 PM	Get Fit w / Shelby - FREE
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**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.**

## Summer Safety Tips from Risk Management

With temperatures soaring, be sure to protect yourself from the sun and heat:

- Schedule outdoor activities carefully, taking advantage of cooler morning and evening hours. UV rays are strongest and most harmful midday.
- Combination sunscreen/insect repellent products should be avoided, because the sunscreen needs to be reapplied every two hours, but insect repellent should not be reapplied that often.
- Never leave infants, children or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open.
- Unprotected skin can be damaged by the sun's UV rays in as little as 15 minutes.

- Clouds do not block UV rays, they filter them – and sometimes only slightly.
- Cover windows. Use drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers for any windows that receive morning or afternoon sun. This can reduce the heat entering your home by up to 80 percent.
- Look for sunscreens that say “broad spectrum” or “UVA/UVB protection” on their labels – these products work best.
- Don't use scented soaps, perfumes or hair sprays on your child; these odors attract insects.

**Remember: Everyone is a risk manager!**

### Go Vote!, from Page 1

The Knoxville-Knox County League of Women Voters offered a civics quiz. Parks and Recreation staff offered games so that parents could attend with their children.



The City sprung for the pizza, while local businesses donated the deserts – cupcakes, cookies and honey bun cake.

“These public meetings were a great

demonstration of grassroots, neighborhood-level democracy put into action,” Mayor Rogero said. “Thoughtful, widespread community engagement leads to better local government. The Go Vote! Knoxville meetings promoted meaningful dialogue between candidates and voters, and made voters aware of the election cycle.”



This year's elections are crucial, the Mayor and current Council members said, because the new members of the next Council will comprise a majority.

So it's important that city stakeholders get engaged in the election process, get to know the candidates, make informed choices on who they wish to support, and then go vote.

Early voting begins on Aug. 9.

For more information or to peruse a sample ballot, visit <http://knoxcounty.org/election>.

For links to the candidates' websites and social media accounts, visit [www.GoVoteKnoxville.com](http://www.GoVoteKnoxville.com).

- Eric Vreeland

### UPCOMING HEALTH EDUCATION CLASSES

- 8/10/2017 11 am, Meal Planning at Lakeshore - 1st floor Conference Room
- 8/17/2017 11 am, Understanding Social Security at Safety Building - Training Room
- 8/22/2017 2:30 pm, Meal Planning at Public Works Complex - Community Room
- 8/23/2017 2 pm, Eating for Heart Health at Safety City - 165 S. Concord Street
- 8/29/2017 1 pm, Eating for Heart Health at City County Building - Room 549
- 9/7/2017 11 am, Preventing/Managing Diabetes at Safety Building - Training Room
- 9/12/2017 1pm, Eating for Heart Health at Public Works Complex - Community Room
- 9/14/2017 1 pm, Meal Planning at Safety Building - Training Room
- 9/14/2017 2:30 pm, Preventing/Managing Diabetes at Facilities - 3209 Morris Avenue
- 9/21/2017 1 pm, Social Security Explained at City County Building - Room 549
- 9/28/2017 1 pm, Mindful Meditation in the Workplace at City County Building - Small Assembly Room

**To sign up for classes please visit [www.knoxviltn.gov/employees](http://www.knoxviltn.gov/employees) and click on "Class Signup" or call The Center at 215-6150.**

**Department News, from Page 2**

Leaders Community on NSite, and participating in quarterly chapter leaders conference calls.

- Congratulations to Julie Maxwell, recipient of one of the 12 Institute for Public Procurement scholarships awarded to attend the NIGP annual forum in Salt Lake City. The annual forum is a major professional development opportunity; it's the largest North American educational conference exclusively for individuals in public procurement.



Julie Maxwell

- Boyce H. Evans, the City's Purchasing Agent, has been selected by Vendor Registry as its July 2017 Purchaser of the Month. Read Vendor Registry's Q&A with Boyce: <http://bit.ly/2uqf3aS>



Boyce H. Evans

**FINANCE**

- Congratulations to the Finance Department staff for being recognized – for the 31st consecutive year! – with a national award presented by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting salutes transparency and clear communication by the City in its annual financial reporting. Finance Director Jim York credits the expertise and dedication of his staff for the unbroken string of 31 GFOA awards.

**POLICE**

- Congratulations, also, to KPD's Officers and Employees of the Month for early 2017 – Garrett Fontanez, Mark Taylor, Sergio Marrero, Tammy Mattina and Janice Woodard.

Many thanks, also, to KPD's Chaplain Corps – 12,000 volunteer hours in 2016!

Their actions demonstrate above-and-beyond commitment and a sense of selfless service. For details about what they did to earn their awards, please visit

[knoxvilletn.gov/news](http://knoxvilletn.gov/news).



Garrett Fontanez with Mayor Madeline Rogero & Chief David Rausch



Mark Taylor with Mayor Madeline Rogero & Chief David Rausch



Sergio Marrero with Mayor Madeline Rogero & Chief David Rausch



Tammy Mattina with Mayor Madeline Rogero & Chief David Rausch



Janice Woodard with Mayor Madeline Rogero & Chief David Rausch



Chaplain Corps with Mayor Madeline Rogero & Chief David Rausch

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