

CITY WORKS



NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Fireworks & Fun for Festival on the Fourth

JUNE 2017
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www.knoxvilletn.gov

Long before most people have started making summer plans, the City of Knoxville's Special Events department is already working on its biggest festival of the year.

Festival on the Fourth brings together numerous City departments, contractors and community partners for a family celebration on World's Fair Park.

Knoxville has long celebrated Independence Day, writes Jack Neely for the Knoxville History Project. Back before Tennessee was even a state, city leaders marked the date that the founders of our nation signed the Declaration of Independence.

In recent times, the City of Knoxville has hosted a public gathering and fireworks show since 1984, first at Chilhowee Park and then at World's Fair Park. What began as a simple invitation to bring your own chair to listen to the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and enjoy fireworks has grown into a full-fledged festival that takes up the entire park and lasts from 4 to 10 p.m. And admission is still free.

If you haven't been to Festival on the Fourth in recent years, you'll find it's grown in size, scope and entertainment value. The event boasts a variety of all-ages activities leading up to the big music and fireworks show.

Beginning at 4 p.m., guests are invited to enjoy activities and musical entertainment on the North Lawn. The Temper Evans Band will kick off the shindig, followed by Airlifter Brass, a brass quintet of the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America Air, at 6:15 p.m.

"We're excited to have Airlifter Brass performing this year," said City of Knoxville Special Events Director Judith Foltz. "They're known for their versatility and outstanding musicianship." The quintet will preview their full Festival on the Fourth set with a free performance July 1, 5 p.m. on Market Square.



Paddleboats on World's Fair Park Pond

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 YEARS

Kathy Ellis
Melissa Foster
Earl Kesterson
Justin Lowery
Janice McClelland
Randy Reagan

15 YEARS

April Jones
Susan White

See Festival Page 5

Mayor's Message



**Mayor Madeline
Rogero**

Welcome to the June 2017 City Works newsletter – the summertime edition. Isn't it great to soak up the warm sunshine and enjoy summer family time?

In this edition, you'll get a sneak preview of Festival on the Fourth, Special Events' biggest single event of the year. Get to know Kristi Tunstall, the newest employee in Plans Review and Inspections. Check out the City's salute to Public Works Week, and congratulate Brandon Littlejohn in Plans Review and Inspections on the birth of his baby girl, Serenity Nicole.

Finally, be sure and find out about employee discounts for City recreation rentals and classes on Page 4.

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

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

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

20 YEARS

Robert Jones
Roy Strevel

25 YEARS

Kenneth Perry
Victor Rodgers
Sanford Smith

30 YEARS

Mark Rigbsy

Department News & Notes

Employee Benefits & Risk Management

Gary Eastes, who for 14 years has led the City's Risk Management office, will be retiring next month. He'd been named the 2012 Public Risk Manager of the Year by the Public Risk Management Association.

Congratulations and best wishes to Gary!

Employee Benefits Manager Christine Fitzgerald will become the new Director of Employee Benefits and Risk Management, subject to City Council's approval of the combined duties.

Plans Review & Inspections

At a May 17th shower, Plans Review & Inspection's Brandon Littlejohn and his wife Talesha celebrated the birth of their baby girl, Serenity Nicole. She was born May 1, weighing 6 lbs, 14 oz. Brandon's co-workers took turns holding the baby and enjoying the impressive spread of barbecue, sides and petit fours decorated with baby booties made of icing. Proud new dad Brandon reports that Serenity is happy and healthy.

Community Relations

There amongst the hundreds of job seekers at the April 27 and May 24 job fairs at Morningside Community Center and Austin-East High School was the Community Relations staff.



Senior Director of Community Relations Avice Reid (right) with Lisa Chambers and Kevin Perry at the Save Our Sons Job Fair at Austin-East High School



Several City Departments provided booths at the Save Our Sons Job Fair

The job fairs were the latest in a series hosted by the City's Save Our Sons initiative. The aim is to connect job

See Department News Page 6

UPCOMING HEALTH EDUCATION CLASSES

6/14/2017 9 AM, Capital Markets Update at City County Building Small Assembly Room, 400 Main Street

6/15/2017 2:30 PM, Capital Markets Update at Public Works Service Center Community Room, 3131 Morris Avenue

6/20/2017 11 AM, Superfoods 2 The Story Continues at Safety Building Training Room, 800 Howard Baker Jr. Avenue

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

10 Questions with Kristi Tunstall

She's the new Administrative Technician in Plans Review and Inspections, and she's quickly learning the ropes.

But ask anyone in the office, and they'll tell you that teamwork and strong technical support from co-workers like Kristi Tunstall are essential in efficiently managing the department's growing workload.



**Kristi Tunstall
Administrative
Technician**

Plans Review and Inspections completes about 30,000 codes inspections a year. Last year, total valuation of all building projects reviewed exceeded \$424 million. Inspections were up by about 20 percent over the previous year, and the number of plans reviewed and permits issued also increased by 20 percent.

That's a lot to wrangle with.

Meet Kristi Tunstall, Plans Review and Inspections' newest employee.

1. As Plans Review and Inspections' Administrative Technician, you handle a lot of details. Any surprises in your first two months on the job?

I'm not sure there have been surprises, but there are a lot of moving parts and new people to become familiar with. I am enjoying learning how things work.

2. You've had a lot of work experience, managing logistics and personnel. What single experience best prepared you for working in Plans Review & Inspections?

For much of the last 10+ years, I have worked in an operations support role in the Department of Energy arena. Perhaps not a single experience, but the fact that business moved so quickly and I needed to respond in kind, helped me to learn to juggle many tasks simultaneously and efficiently. This also taught me to work with many different personality types.

3. How can you help the department function more efficiently? Can you share an example?

A new perspective could result in small changes that can save time. I want to learn "how it's done" currently before I make suggestions for change. There is value in knowing how things work before you take them apart.

4. Congratulations on your son's graduation from Farragut High School! Tell us a little about your family.

Thank you. We are so proud of our son! My husband and I have been married for 22 years and we have two boys. Next school year, we will have two freshmen: one in high school and one in college. We are not from the area originally, but have lived in Knoxville since 2000.

5. And your brother competed in the 2012 Olympics as a pole vaulter? What was it like, watching the Olympics up close in London?

I am very proud of my brother. Watching the Olympics on TV has always been something that I enjoyed. Seeing the whole event firsthand (not just the part the camera focuses on) as well as watching my brother compete is something I'll never forget. Having an opportunity to walk through Olympic Village to see the different venues and the athletes from all over the world was certainly humbling. It is amazing how a city can be transformed to host an event of that magnitude.

6. We understand your sons are athletes as well. Do you spend a lot of time, traveling to baseball games or hauling golf clubs to tournaments?

Both of my boys have played baseball since they were 4 or 5 years old, starting in a recreational league, then moving on to travel ball and school teams. My younger son transitioned to golf last summer and is enjoying playing a different sport. These activities take a lot of time and truly are a family commitment, but I really enjoy it and we have met some great people in the process. What more can a mom ask than to watch her children participating in something they love?

7. A few years ago, your family took in spring training baseball in Arizona. You hiked in the desert and saw cairns and cacti. What was the best memory from that trip?

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
4:30 PM	Cardio Power w/Kent - FREE

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

Take Advantage of Employee Discounts for City Recreation Services

Discounts listed below are for employees, not family members, friends, etc. unless noted.

Facility/Building Rentals

- \$20 per hour (regular price is \$35 per hour)
- Up to 2 per year at discounted rate for immediate family
- Additional must be approved by Director
- Contact 865-215-1718 for details or to register

Shelter Rentals

- Discounted rate for a four-hour rental
- Up to 2 per year at discounted rate for immediate family
- Additional discounted rentals must be approved by Director
- \$25 for small shelters (regular price is \$40 for 4 hours)
- \$30 for large shelters (regular price is \$50 for 4 hours)
- Contact 865-215-1718 for details or to register

Knoxville Arts & Fine Crafts Center

- 25% off class fee (not applicable to materials fees)
- Discounts for art & cooking classes
- Contact 865-523-1401 for details or to register

Aquatics

- Present City Employee ID at gate for discount
- Indoor Pools - \$1 off pool admission (regular price \$3); includes Elmer Brine Pool at 522 Maryville Pike and Adaptive Center Pool at 2235 Dandridge Ave.
- Outdoor Pools - \$1 off pool admission (regular price \$3 or \$4); includes Ed Cothren Pool at 1737 Reynolds St. and Inskip Pool at 4204 Bruhin Rd.
- Applicable to immediate family

Adult Athletics

- Baseball, Basketball, Kickball, Softball, Volleyball
- 50% off league fees if predominantly City employees or Department teams
- 10% off if some City employees but not majority of team
- Contact 865-215-1718 for details or to register a team

City Golf Courses

- Present City Employee ID at check-in desk for discount
- \$4 off green fees at Whittle Springs Golf Course located at 3116 Valley View Dr.
- \$4 off green fees at Knoxville Municipal located at 3925 Schaad Rd.
- \$4 off green fees at Williams Creek Golf Course located at 2351 Dandridge Ave.

Tennis

- 25% off any tennis lesson, clinic or league (excluding USTA & Interclub)
- At Tyson Park or West Hills Park
- Contact 865-680-2277 for details or to register

Learn more about all the services and facilities available through the City's Park and Recreation Department at www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation.



Employees can enjoy Inskip Pool at 4204 Bruhin Rd.

FITNESS CLASSES - CITY COUNTY BUILDING

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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.

Festival, from Page 1

Also stationed on the North Lawn are nine holes of miniature golf, Lego tables from Bricks for Kids, and opportunities to soak fellow revelers in a game of Water Wars. Little ones can jump to their hearts' content in the bounce houses located in the Tennessee Amphitheater. And the popular paddleboats return to World's Fair Park's pond.

**Festival on the Fourth Fun**

One of the best parts of July 4th is the food, and several on-site vendors will offer hot dogs, barbecue, corn (both kettle and roasted), ice cream, funnel cakes and more.

Once you're full of treats and ready to sit a spell, plop your chair down on the South Performance Lawn and enjoy live bluegrass from Stoney Point Bluegrass Band, starting at 5:30 p.m.

At 8 p.m., Knoxville Symphony Orchestra Music Director Aram Demirjian takes up the baton for the KSO's 33rd Annual Free Pilot Flying J Independence Day Concert.

"Aram's first introduction to Knoxville was conducting the Independence Day concert last summer, so this feels like a milestone," says KSO Communications Director Rachel Dellinger. "He programs the show as a musical celebration of America."

Popular patriotic tunes include "The Star Spangled Banner," the Armed Forces Salute, John Phillip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever," plus KSO will perform Aaron Copland's "Hoe-Down," which you may recall from the "Beef: It's What's for Dinner" campaign. The program also includes an homage to revered American composer John

Williams, who wrote the film scores to *Star Wars*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Saving Private Ryan* and many other iconic movies.

Knoxville folk duo Blond Bones will join the KSO to play a few of their own songs and pitch in with the orchestra. Another special guest is Knoxville Poet Laureate RB Morris, who will perform an original narration for Williams' piece "Hymn to the Fallen" from *Saving Private Ryan*.

The Williams tribute is a teaser for the Symphony's 2017-18 season, which in January will feature "Raiders of the Lost Ark: Film Plus Orchestra," which finds Steven Spielberg's 1981 film projected on the big screen at the Tennessee Theatre and accompanied by the KSO performing the epic score.

**Knoxville Symphony Orchestra led by Music Director Aram Demirjian**

"Music is a great way to celebrate and honor our country and its distinguished musical heritage," Dellinger said. "The symphony is thrilled to perform this free concert for East Tennessee audiences."

World-famous LaFollette-based Pyro Shows will launch a bigger-than-ever 15-minute fireworks display at 9:35 p.m. The show will be broadcast live on WBIR Channel 10 and streamed live on WBIR.com from approximately 8-10 p.m.

No matter which way you experience it, Festival on the Fourth is a special Knoxville tradition that commemorates our country's founding and what makes our community such an extraordinary place to live.

- Paige Travis

**SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FROM RISK MANAGEMENT**

It's finally summertime – and Risk Management offers these seasonal safety tips:

- Protect your hearing when operating machinery, including lawn mowers. If you have to raise your voice to talk to someone who is an arm's length away, the noise can be potentially harmful to your hearing.
- Never swim alone.
- Actively supervise children in or around water. Drownings are the leading cause of injury/death for young children ages 1 to 4, and three children die every day as a result of drowning.
- Don't go in the water unless you know how to swim; swim lessons are available for all ages.
- Don't dive in unfamiliar areas.
- Enter the water feet-first. Enter head-first only when the area is clearly marked for diving and has no obstructions.
- Don't underestimate the power of water; even rivers and lakes can have undertows.
- Watch the face – especially the eyes. Many victims don't call, wave or signal for help because they can't keep their head or arms above water.
- Children under 6 months should not have sun exposure!
- Establish water rules for your family and enforce them without fail.
- If you go boating, wear a life jacket! Most boating fatalities occur from drowning.
- Avoid alcohol in or around the water!
- Know how and when to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number in the event of an emergency. Teach young children your address.

Remember: Everyone is a risk manager!

Department News, from Page 2

candidates with employers and help job seekers prepare their resumes and polish their interview skills.

“Save Our Sons is committed to removing barriers to employment,” said Save Our Sons Outreach Manager Kevin Perry.

“Finding a sustainable job is an important component for a happy and productive life. Providing people with jobs leads to better economies, lower crime rates and stronger families and communities. That’s part of the SOS initiative.”

“SOS is in the business of improving life outcomes of our young men and boys of color,” said Senior Director of Community Relations Avice Reid. “Their successes are everyone’s successes.”



Public Service Crew from Service Area 5



City Engineering Department repaving streets

Public Works

City Communications tried something a little different this year with National Public Works Week, which honors the hard work of the employees in Public Service, Engineering, Parks and Recreation, Plans Review and Inspections, and Fleet Services.

Mayor Rogero did a welcoming video for the week, which was released on social media. View it here: <http://bit.ly/2qB6TtQ>

On Facebook, the public was able to follow the day of highlighted Public Works employees. View photos here: <http://bit.ly/2s0a6Do>

A brief Public Works Week blog series was launched on City Blog. Check out the stories at www.knoxvilletn.gov/blog

Thank you so much to our hard-working Public Works employees, who make the City run smoothly!

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFO

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

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10 Questions, from Page 3

We are a baseball family and really enjoyed walking through the spring training camps and attending a couple of the spring games. We also did a little hiking in the Sedona area, where we did the customary “stacking of pebbles” along the rock face. There is something about the air that is memorable; I’m not sure if the scent is from plant life, the rock, or something else. It is very rejuvenating!

8. Any big family plans this summer?

We don’t have any big vacations planned, but I am hoping that we will have time to get out on the water a little. This will be the first summer that we have not played travel baseball in some

time, so it will be a different pace for us. We will be preparing my older son to go to college in the fall, and I’m sure that my younger son will be playing a lot of golf.

9. Easy question: What’s your favorite area restaurant?

I have a few that I like. My new favorite for breakfast/brunch is First Watch.

10. What’s your idea of a perfect way to spend a day off?

What is the “day off” that you speak of? I’m not sure I’m familiar... :-)