

CITY WORKS



NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Annual Open Enrollment Starts November 1

City of Knoxville Benefits' Annual Open Enrollment period begins Nov. 1, so it's time to consider how your benefits served you last year, and what changes you'd like to make for 2018.



coverage) without answering medical questions. If you've never elected life insurance before, you can get \$10,000 in coverage with no medical questions.



And if you sell some of your copious vacation hours, you will need to tell Benefits the exact number of hours you intend to sell in 2018; last year's amount won't automatically renew.



If you've waived City-provided health insurance, you will still need to submit proof that you have coverage under another plan.

Some things to ask yourself:



Did the amount you chose to put in your Flexible Spending Account (FSA) cover your qualified medical expenses, or was your account short at the end of the year? You must make a new election every year, so consider which amount is right for you. You can elect to have as much as \$2,500 reserved from your paycheck to pay for co-pays, prescriptions, eyeglasses, and a host of other eligible expenses (listed at WageWorks.com). Using these pre-tax dollars to cover health-related costs—rather than paying out of pocket—can save you money.



Do you plan to have some necessary medical tests or procedures next year? Will you or your spouse be having a baby? Is your teenager getting his wisdom teeth removed? These are the kinds of possibilities you should consider when analyzing your current health and/or dental plans.



Do you have enough life insurance? During the open-enrollment period, you can increase your current election by \$20,000 (up to \$100,000 total

Here are some timely reminders about your City Benefits:



THE CENTER
Served by [Premise Health](#).

Remember The Center! Located in the lower level of the new Public Works Service Center (3131 Morris Ave. off Middlebrook Pike), The Center has a full-time doctor on site who can see City employees covered by City insurance (and their covered dependents age 2 and up) for minor maladies. Call 215-6150 to make an appointment.

Be sure to sign up for MyHealth at COKmyhealth.com. This new, dynamic website replaces MyBlueHealth as the portal

See Enrollment Page 4

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www.knoxvilletn.gov

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 years

Robert Allen Akins
Jason William Artymovich
Joseph Paul Bowers Jr
Brian Lee Bumpus
Linda Kaye Clevenger
Keri Ann Collins
Michael William Cooper
Charles Christopher Cody Fritz
Kevin Edmund Johnson
John Adam Martin
Sara Krystal Morgan
Avice Evans Reid
Rudolfo Phillip Reyes
Dan Roark
Frankie Rush
Justin Gregory Elex Schreieck
Shawn William Shreve
Roger Lynn Simmons

Mayor's Message



Mayor Madeline Rogero

Hello, and happy autumn! This is always a busy time of year for the City, between football traffic and holiday events and – let's not forget – the beginning of leaf pickup season. It is also the time for our annual benefits enrollment, which you can learn about in this edition of City Works. Make sure you attend the Benefits Fair on Oct. 19 for more information.

You can also get to know a little more about Karen Briggs, who is preparing to retire from our Parks and Recreation Department after 29 years with the City. And you can get caught up on recent personnel changes in many of our departments.

Thank you again for everything you all do every day to serve the people of Knoxville!

Follow the Mayor:

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

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

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

10 years (continued)

- Thomas Adam Thurman
- Joseph Barclay Toole
- Nicola Marie Coplan Tucker

15 years

- Steven Caspelich
- William Michael Grayson
- Reginald Jones
- Jesse James Lawhorn

20 years

- Kenneth Wade Clark
- Kenneth Winfield Jones
- Steven Richards

25 years

- Richard Lynn Slover

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 POUND® Class w/Ginger - FREE

TUESDAYS

- 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 \$25 per 40 min.
- 1:30 PM Group Class Biggest Loser DVD - Free
- 3:00 PM Group Class 21 Day Fix DVD - FREE
- 4:40 PM POUND® Class w/Ginger - FREE

Department News & Notes

Promotions and New Duties

A few major departures and retirements have led to several personnel changes in the last few weeks. With the departure of Chief Operating Officer and Deputy to the Mayor Christi Branscom, who left at the end of September to return to the private sector, David Brace has been promoted from Senior Director of Public Works to fill that role. He will be assisted by Chip Barry, the newly designated Deputy Chief of Operations.

And with the retirement of Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh, after 30 years

of service to the City, Sheryl Ely has now taken the helm in that department. Filling Sheryl's old job as Deputy Director of Public Service is Rachel Butzler, who for the last two years has served as the City's Solid Waste Manager.

Also, congratulations to Nicholas Bradshaw, who had been serving as interim Deputy Director of Fleet Services, and now has been made permanent in that role.

Give A Day Knoxville

City employees made such a tremendous impact during the Give A Day Knoxville community initiative. Their caring volunteer spirit is greatly appreciated!



Throughout the first week of September, more than 100 City employees contributed 560 hours of service to benefit Mobile Meals, Zoo Knoxville, Second Harvest Food Bank and Fair Garden Family Center. Parks and Recreation led the way, serving more than 200 hours.

The Give A Day project encouraged everyone to give back in whatever way



Top row: David Brace, Chip Barry, and Sheryl Ely



Bottom row: Rachel Butzler and Nicholas Bradshaw

10 Questions with Karen Briggs

After 29 years working for the City of Knoxville, Parks and Recreation Administrative Supervisor Karen Briggs will retire at the end of the year on Dec. 29, 2017.

1. You recently won an award—congratulations! Can you explain what you won and who have you helped?

I won Purchasing's Employee Advocate of the Year Award for helping to promote the use of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise business owners in City initiatives. We encourage our employees to seek out DBE's when researching companies to provide services for our department.



**Karen Briggs
Parks & Recreation
Administrative
Supervisor**



Karen accepts the Employee Advocate of the Year Award from Mayor Madeline Rogero and Purchasing Director Boyce Evans

2. What inspired you to improve the lives of women and minorities?

I have seen marketing be so crucial to the success of a business; knowing dollars for marketing are often not in a DBE's budget, I feel we should promote them as much as we are able.

3. Who was the Mayor when you first came here as an Executive Secretary?

Mayor Victor Ashe. I started working for the city in the Mayor's office in May of 1988, during his first few months in office. After two years I was offered a job in Parks and Recreation, which carried Civil Service protection. I've been here ever since.

4. You have how many children and grandchildren?

My husband and I have six grown children between us, 10 grandchildren and two foster grandchildren. When you have such a large family, no one gets too upset when you can't remember the exact date of their birthday...as long as you eventually remember!

5. Four dogs, wow! How does parenting a big household of children compare to parenting a pack of dogs?

It's easier to raise up a dog in the direction you want it to go. Not necessarily cheaper, just easier!

6. Any plans for more puppies?

Four dogs keep us pretty busy. I think we'll hold for now. If we feel the need for more, we have 11 or 12 grand-dogs we can invite over to visit.

7. According to many people, you are multi-talented. First, as a potter and fiber artist, and business owner whose art has been featured in the Mayor's Office. What has been your greatest achievement?

I don't think of a successful life as being defined by a few "greatest achievements." I prefer a day well spent; a close, loving family; a hug from a child; a great book read. In the studio it's a project completed successfully; a new idea brought to fruition; a happy customer. Of course it goes without saying, I am very proud of having been asked to place some of my work in Mayor Rogero's office. I've received a lot of positive feedback from City staff as well as from visitors to her office.

8. You are also an avid gardener whose landscaping has been described as being "Disneyworld quality." What motivates you to pursue gardening at such a high level?

There are so many reasons: joy, hard work, a sense of permanence, to name a few. Enjoying the beauty of nature, continually learning new things, watching the birds, working with my husband on a special project – all good reasons as well.

9. If you could learn any new skill what would it be?

To let someone else be in charge. I'd like to be able to live my favorite quote: "Follow your bliss."

10. What are your plans for the future?

Spend more time in the studio. Sit on the porch with the dogs and read. Rest and relax, at least for now. Not sure life will take any new directions, at least not right away. Maybe sleep past 5 a.m. for a while?

- Communications Intern Celeste Lord

FITNESS CLASSES - CITY COUNTY BUILDING

THURSDAYS

- 11:30 AM Open Group Class
DVD - FREE
- 12:30 PM One-on-One Thai
Yoga w/Leslie
\$25 per 40 min.
- 1:30 PM One-on-One Thai
Yoga w/Leslie
\$25 per 40 min.
Session
- 3:00 PM Open Group Class
DVD - FREE

FRIDAYS

- 11:00 AM One-on-One Thai
Yoga w/ Leslie
\$25 per 40 min.
- 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

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.

Enrollment, from Page 1

where you log your quarterly education credits and sync your fitness device. September was the final month you could use MyBlueHealth rewards.



eni is our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider. An EAP is designed to assist you and your eligible family members with short-term counseling for a variety of personal and work-related issues, like post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, stress/ tension/ grief, marital and family relationships, substance abuse and dependency, and other work/life issues. Call eni at 800-986-4513 or create an account at MyBalanceWorks.com.

Got questions about benefits? Your in-house experts are Benefits Manager Katie Tanner and Employee Benefits & Risk Management Director Christine Fitzgerald. Hit 'em up on the Fifth Floor or call 215-2111.

To update your benefits starting November 1, visit insideknoxville.knx and under the "Citywide" pulldown menu, select Online Annual Enrollment.

- Paige M. Travis

Department News, from Page 2

they're able – either by volunteering or making donations or doing a good deed to help out a neighbor. Several organizations registered specific needs and projects with Volunteer East Tennessee (www.VolunteerETN.org).

Other Give A Day Knoxville partners, in addition to Volunteer East Tennessee, included Scripps Networks Interactive, the United Way of Greater Knoxville, Shafer Insurance Agency and Shafer HR Solutions.



From Sept. 2 to Sept. 8, City employees, including Mayor Rogero, delivered more than 700 meals to homebound seniors in the Knoxville area.

Make plans to attend the Mayor's Employee Appreciation Picnic & Benefits Fair on Thursday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Caswell Park. Come for the free food & games, stay for the door prizes and to bid in the silent auction of pumpkins decorated by your very own colleagues!



Mayor's Employee Appreciation Picnic & Benefits Fair is Set for Oct. 19

**UPCOMING HEALTH EDUCATION CLASSES**

10/11/2017 2pm, Saving and Budgeting 101, Public Works Complex Community Room

10/18/2017 11am, Saving and Budgeting 101, City County Building Small Assembly Room

10/26/2017 2pm, New Trends in Grocery Shopping, Public Works Complex Community Room

10/26/2017 2pm, Preventing Stroke What Can You Do, Safety City 165 S. Concord St

11/2/2017 11am, Navigating MyFitnessPal Nutrition Tracker, Safety Building Training Room

11/7/2017 1pm, New Trends in Grocery Shopping, City County Building Room 549

11/8/2017 11am, Saving and Budgeting 101, Lakeshore Administration Building 1st Floor Conference Room

11/10/2017 12pm, Surviving the Holidays, Safety Building Training Room

11/14/2017 11am, Preventing Stroke What You Can Do, Safety Building Training Room

11/16/2017 2:30pm Preventing Stroke What You Can Do, Facilities 3209 Morris Ave.

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, from Page 2**Purchasing**

It was great to honor seven small, woman- and minority-owned businesses for their leadership at the Purchasing Department's second annual Diversity Business Enterprise (DBE) Awards Ceremony on Sept. 6.

The awards also saluted City departments committed to reaching out to DBEs with procurement contracts.

The City's Engineering Department and Office of Special Events were honored with Advocate Awards for their contracting with DBEs. Engineering was recognized in the large department category (\$1.8 million contracted with DBEs), and Special Events was recognized in the small department category (\$52,000).

Similarly, the Parks and Recreation Department (19.1 percent) and the Communications Department (62.3 percent) were recognized for the highest percentage of contracting with DBEs by a large and a small department, respectively.

Karen Briggs, profiled in this newsletter's 10 Questions Q&A, was honored with the Employee Advocate of the Year Award.

For details on the business honorees, visit <http://bit.ly/2w210MT>.

Communications

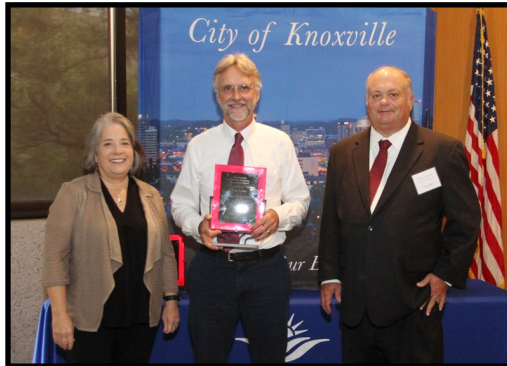
The Go Vote! Knoxville initiative aimed to generate more interest and dialogue in this year's City Council races – and, ultimately, increase voter turnout.



It succeeded. More ballots were cast in the Aug. 29 primary than in similar recent elections. But turnout can be even better for the Nov. 7 general election.

A total of 7,140 voters cast ballots – the most in a non-mayoral primary election since term limits took effect in 2001. Before that, you'd have to go back to 1989 to find a

See Department News Page 6



Director Jim Hagerman accepts the DBE Advocate Award for the Engineering Department



Elaine Frank and Deputy Director Kyndra Brewer accept the DBE Advocate Award for the Office of Special Events



Karen Briggs, Director Joe Walsh and Deputy Director Aaron Browning accept the DBE Advocate Award for the Parks & Recreation Department



Director Jesse Mayshark and Deputy Director Eric Vreeland accept the DBE Advocate Award for the Communications Department

TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY TIPS FROM RISK MANAGEMENT

Before your little ghosts and goblins set out this Halloween, Risk Management has some safety tips:

- Supervise the trick-or-treat outing for children under age 12. Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you.
- Agree on a specific time when children should return home.
- Carry a cell phone, if possible when trick-or-treating. It's OK to have your child check in.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and stay in well-lit areas by avoiding short-cuts.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home.
- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags to make sure they are visible.
- Have your children's names and addresses attached to their costumes.
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first.
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation
- Keep candle-lit jack o' lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings, and curtains.
- Set up spooky lighting with caution.
- Have children draw a face on the outside of the pumpkin and have parents do the cutting.



Remember: Everyone is a risk manager!

Department News, from Page 5

City primary without candidates for Mayor on the ballot in which more votes were cast.

The number of people who voted in August's election was up by about 75 percent from the number who voted in 2009, the last time these same 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Council seats were on the ballot and there were no incumbents running.

The www.GoVoteKnoxville.com website publicizes candidate forums and provides links to candidates' websites and social media platforms, making it easier for voters to compare the candidates.

Go Vote! Knoxville also has offered six meet-the-candidate public meetings in July and September – one in each Council district.

Engineering

An experienced local government veteran – Sheila Kohl, who managed the Knox County Mayor's Office for five years – is now Engineering Director Jim Hagerman's executive assistant. Welcome, Sheila!



Sheila Kohl

Police

Congratulations to KPD's 39 newest officers, sworn in at an Aug. 17 graduation ceremony. For details and photos: <http://bit.ly/2w1iZDj>



9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at the Sunsphere

Fire

On Sept. 11, 343 firefighters from Knoxville and surrounding counties paid a somber 9/11 tribute to the 343 New York firefighters who died in the Twin Towers 16 years ago. The 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at the Sunsphere supported the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Mayor's Office / Communications

If you haven't signed up yet to receive the Mayor's new weekly newsletter, "From the Desk of Madeline Rogero," it's easy to subscribe. Click on <http://bit.ly/SubscribeMayorNews>.

Here are a few samples of the newsletter, which provides a brief weekly overview of City news and events for the general public and employees alike: <http://bit.ly/2gY13QW>, <http://bit.ly/2hgtlVC> and <http://bit.ly/2yAhf4J>.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter, but if you ever want to unsubscribe, you'll find the UNSUBSCRIBE link at the end of every email.



Knoxville Police Department Graduating Class of 2017 A

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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