



FOCUS



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Carter Residents Rally Against Industrial Park

On Saturday the 8th District Preservation Association held a press conference and "taxpayer protest rally." It took place at the home of Bob and Bo Stutz located at 626 Carter School Road. The object of the rally and conference was to protest a proposed and some feel, unnecessary, industrial park that is possibly going into their neighborhood.

The Development Corporation of Knox County is planning to develop an industrial park in the Thorngrove/Midway area. This is the last exit on I-40 East before the Smoky Mountain Exit. The area consists of homes, rural rolling hills, and extensive mountain views. Folks living in this rural area have deep roots in the community.

It is estimated that \$31 million in taxpayers dollars would be spent on acquiring property and putting in infrastructure. Eddy Shackelford was among the concerned citizens who attended the rally and he responded to the plans as "I feel we've been kind of steam rolled." Many folks said that they had no idea such plans were even taking place. Janis Waggoner was also among the



Above: Only one of the many sinkholes on the property for the proposed industrial park site. Inset left: Danny Sanders, teacher from Carter High speaks on how money would be better spent on education. Inset right: Glen Underwood's grandson on the tractor he rebuilt with Commissioner John Mills who said we should protect places such as these for the future farmers.

concerned citizens and she said, "This is really an issue that affects all taxpayers." Most folks expressed con-

cerns that the money should be utilized toward funding schools, paying teachers more money, road infrastructure, and paying pensions for sher-

iffs deputies who currently have no pensions due to lack of budget. "There are some other important needs in our community

we could use that money for," was Waggoner's reflection on how the Commis-

Continued on page 2

Stop & Shop in North Knoxville...

By Charmin Foth



Weigel's Manager Mary Anne Van Hoy

If you don't think North Knoxville is the place to be, it's time you took off those blinders. The rapid growth in housing in the area along with the changing merchant scene is phenomenal.

In the past week the new Weigel's on Murphy Road and Washington Pike opened. It boasts a friendly staff a great selection for that quick run to the store for a gallon of milk and some munchies. I spoke with manager Mary Anne Van Hoy, who took time out of her busy opening schedule to tell me a little about the store. "There's a drink station that will quench any thirst. We have 20 different fountain drinks on tap, frozen drinks, coffee and cappuccino. We also have breakfast and lunch choices for those in a hurry. And you can't forget the dairy products like milk and ice cream Weigel's is known for. Weigel's is also known for great gas prices, and the station carries both unleaded and diesel fuel. Weigel's is open from 6 a.m. to Midnight." We welcome Weigel's, Mary Anne and her Assistant Manager Betty Sharp, they great addition to our community.

With the opening of stores like Target and Carolina Pottery in the area, the Wal-Mart scheduled to be completed with it's renovation into a Super-Center around March of '07, all centrally located around Knoxville Center Mall and the new shops soon to be pop-

ping up in Fountain Village and the Fountain City Shops, the shopping opportunities promise to be endless. Patronize our local businesses and keep them thriving in our area.

So girlfriend, let's go shopping!

Weigel's newest location at Murphy Road and Washington Pike.



New Millertown Pike Food City Set to Open

Shelves are stocked in preparation for the August 16, 2006 opening of the new Food City located at the intersection of Millertown Pike and Love's Creek Road (next to Knoxville Center Mall) in east Knoxville. Customers will get their first look at the 47,500 square foot facility when the doors open Wednesday morning.

"We're extremely excited to be bringing another state-of-the-art Food City to east Knoxville. We have certainly enjoyed serving the area residents through our existing locations and our customers will really enjoy the added services provided by the new store," said Steven C. Smith, president and chief executive officer for Food City.

The new store includes: a Bakery/Deli, complete with a Hot Food Bar and Sit-Down Café; Floral Boutique, staffed with a professional floral designer; Food City Video, stocked with the latest releases and classic favorites; and expanded Grocery, Frozen Food, Produce and Health & Beauty Care departments. The unit also includes full-service Meat and Seafood departments, with in-house meat cutters on staff to hand cut steaks and fresh meat to order. The department features a wide variety of pre-marinated and seasoned oven ready products, in addition to a complete selection of top quality meats that are all-natural with no solutions added and Certified Angus Beef.

The location includes a Food City Pharmacy, where a registered pharmacist will be on hand to meet prescription needs and answer health related questions. And before exiting the parking lot, customers can stop by the new Food City Gas N' Go and take advantage of top quality gasoline at highly competitive prices.

"The enlarged departments will allow for enhanced variety and selection and greater ease shopping the store," commented Jody Helms, executive vice president/director of store operations. "Our customers are really going to enjoy shopping this new state-of-the-art facility".

Customers will be able to move quickly through the 8 traditional checkouts and one express lane or utilize four self check-out lanes to scan their items and pay for their purchases unaided, should they wish to do so. To complete the package, the location has been outfitted with an attractive new exterior and interior design concept, including department coordinated floor tiling, large department signage, a contemporary check-out area design and a new store-wide color scheme.

"Our shoppers can count on the top quality products, courteous service and competitive pricing they have come to expect from Food City, with added selection and services," says John Jones, executive vice president, store operations and Knoxville resident.

Headquartered in Abingdon, Virginia, K-VA-T Food Stores operates 98 retail food outlets throughout the tri-state regions of Southeast Kentucky, Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee.

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I Was Just Thinking...
by Joe Rector

What's a Car For?

I've watched plenty of car commercials lately. The soaring price of gas has the auto industry caught with its collective pants down again. Because vehicles are gas-guzzlers and manufacturers haven't done much to cut our dependence on oil, they have to offer deals on the price of cars or financing incentives in order for us to purchase one. The product that they put out now is much different from the one of yesterday.

Cars today are compilations of sheet metal and plastic. The bodies are so flimsy that even the slightest pressure can put a dent in a door, fender, or quarter panel. Plastic parts are placed throughout them. Screws are used sparingly. Instead, plastic buttons are shoved through small holes to hold things together, and they work until the ends snap off or are cut by the sharp metal into which they are inserted. The grills and bumpers are plastic and rubber as well. Crumple zones in the front and rear of the car are designed to absorb the shock from contact and distribute it in a way that protects the passengers. All that plastic and rubber is unable to take a tap at five miles an hour without the car incurring several hundreds of dollars of damage.

Amenities for new cars have reached the ridiculous stage. Are Americans so lazy that we can't expend the energy to push a button to lock a door

or roll up a window? Cars today have all the things that producers convince consumers through advertisements are essentials. Auto dealers make mega-fortunes on "option packages." Tinted windows or certain gauges only come with select packages that dealers will gladly sell customers. Possibly the most ridiculous option is the one for spare tires. Cars come equipped with "bicycle tires," as I call them. However, for extra money, a customer can purchase a regular sized spare tire that is safe on which to drive. Go figure!

Old cars were better values. Screws were used instead of plastic parts. The metal that comprised the body was strong stuff, and it could withstand bumps and bruises that fold today's car bodies. Most bumpers, as well as grills, were heavy metal that was chrome-plated. They were aesthetically pleasing, and men put coats of wax on the paint and polished the chrome on their cars. The vehicles literally sparkled as the sunlight or streetlight struck that chrome. Those bumpers and grills could take a bit of abuse as well. A tap at five miles per hour might have put a small dent in the bumper, but the repair was a minor one, not something that might require a king's ransom. Chrome plating also was found on door handles, window cranks, and dashes. They survived for years without splitting from intense sunrays through the windshield

or without discoloring with frequent use.

Now, it's true that old cars didn't have all of today's options. They were simple machines that were designed to take a person from point A to B. Still, choices of paint color, upholstery fabric, radio, and air conditioning (on later models) were offered to customers. Some people wanted to add fender skirts, drip guard over windows, or other chrome plated items to their engines, tailpipes, etc. The fact was, however, they didn't have to buy an entire set of items in order to get the one that they wanted.

Old cars offered one item plentifully: space. Today, commercials brag about vehicles that seat five adults comfortably. BIG DEAL! The old family sedan offered plenty of bottom room for three people in the front and three in the back. Those in the back also found enough legroom, and no one's head ever touched the top liner. Trunks could carry all of the luggage a family might tote on vacation and still had room for a picnic basket or cooler.

Today, cars are specialized things on which only highly trained mechanics can work. They are much more temperamental than their predecessors. People don't have that special bond to those new autos. In the old days, owners performed many of the maintenance jobs on their cars and often assigned them names and spoke of them much as if they were members of the family. Vehicles were kept for a much longer span of time, and some families passed them down to the children. They were special possessions then. Now, we get tired of them or are attracted to the newer models. We've lost our sense of loyalty to our cars.

Norwood Kiwanis hosts Mayor Bill Haslam

By Charmin Foth



City of Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. For additional information about Kiwanis visit www.kiwanis.org. Mayor Bill Haslam was the speaker for August 11th meeting. He started the meeting talking about the differences and similarities between government and business. He spoke about problem solving and finding the best answer possible for the people.

He then opened the floor up for numerous questions from the good natured crowd. Haslam took the time to answer all the questions in an honest, straightforward and at times humorous manner. When asked if he would run again, Haslam said "I haven't made an official statement..." He was interrupted by someone who said "Well you have now..." where the room erupted in laughter. Mayor Haslam's finished the unofficial statement by saying this; "In government it takes a while and things I started on that first day are just now starting to come around. Unfortunately it takes a while and there are things I'd like to see through. I certainly plan on it." Remember you heard it here first.

Some of the questions asked were:

Q: How is the Regal Cinema project on Gay St. progressing?

A: Everything is finally worked out with it and is now in construction and should be showing movies by late spring.

Q: Will the South River Development look like Chattanooga?

A: Ours will probably be more mixed use, with a park and walkways and some retail space.

It was a great meeting, with lots of laughter and information. The next Norwood Kiwanis meeting is Friday, August 18th at noon and the speaker will be Gunner from WIVK. The following week's program will be Dr. Charles Lindsey, awarding scholarships from the Kiwanis to 4 local students.

The Norwood Kiwanis meets every Friday at noon at the Shoney's on Clinton Highway. They are a hardworking and fun group that would welcome newcomers, they are having a membership drive this month. Anyone interested in becoming a member can visit a luncheon and join.

Carter Residents Rally

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sioners should spend the money.

The area chosen for the proposed site consists of 378 acres of property. It is estimated that there will be 30,000 additional vehicle trips generated in and out of the area per day due to the industrial park. Axel Ringe, who spoke on behalf of the Tennessee Clean Water Network and the Sierra Club, addressed concerns about development pressure due to the increase in number of people moving into the area. Energy usage was another issue that was spoke of due to commuters traveling to the new industrial park using more gas and spewing more pollution. There are already serious air quality issues in Knox County.

Residents feel that The Development Corporation is misleading taxpayers about the need for the industrial park. The Development Corporation has over 700 undeveloped industrial acres available in Knox County according to the Chamber Partnership's website. There are dozens of abandoned industrial sites around Knox County that could be revitalized if more industrial land was needed. In addition, Knox County recently invested \$5 million in a regional industrial park in Blount County.

The neighborhood groups are concerned that little or no consideration was given to the East County Sector Plan, which guides development plans for the area. The land for the proposed industrial park is presently zoned agricultural and low-density residential. Knox County Commissioner John Mills spoke at the press conference and said "a couple of months ago on the other side of the river in South Knoxville they denied a sector plan change because it didn't fit the concept of the neighborhood."

Residents say the terrain for the planned industrial site is unsuitable for such intensive development due to sinkholes, and extensive caves. There is also risk of water contamination due to cavernous underground drainage structures. This raises concerns for the families and farmers that are residents who mainly have well water. Axel Ringe reflected on the disaster at Burnetts Creek. He said, "When they took some of the fill at the Coster Shop and dumped

it in the sinkholes in the Burnetts Creek area, that disaster cost taxpayers millions of dollars and severely damaged the water supply."

According to a study the Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission conducted, Knox County will run out of developable land within ten years if we develop the same way in the next ten years as we have in the past. The studies apparently failed to study the vast array of empty industrial areas as well as empty buildings all across Knox County due to businesses moving. "Why should Metropolitan Commission spend your tax dollars, and I'm talking about thousands of your tax dollars, to have sector plans if we're not going to follow them?" said John Mills, Knox County Commissioner.

Residents and supporters aren't giving up anytime soon. They have launched a new website at knoxaction.com, where they present their reasons why they believe more industrial parks aren't needed in Knox County, and why The Development Corporation of Knox County should not be entrusted with any more taxpayer dollars.

Their next meeting is on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at 7:00 pm at Thorngrove Baptist Church, when they will hear from the attorney who has been hired by the community to represent them before County Commission, and for the lawsuit that will be likely be filed if the rezoning is approved. In addition, there is a Community Fun Day planned as a fundraiser on August 19, 2006. The day will begin with a Country Ham Breakfast at the Odd Fellow Lodge from 7-10 am, followed by activities at the Thorngrove Ball Park, including games, horse-drawn rides, an auction, raffles, food and more.

All this activity is in preparation for the County Commission vote on August 28th at 4 P.M. in the Large Assembly room at the City County Building downtown. John Mills, one of the 8th District Commissioners who will be voting on the project said "You have my word. You have elected me to stand up for you. I will stand up with you and if we go down, I'll go down with you!"

For more information about the proposed industrial park visit www.knoxaction.com or call (865)540-1455.



THE LONG WAY HOME

One hot, sultry day I left Pennsylvania, traveling south and west, bypassing, York, Pa., Baltimore, Maryland, and cruised the Beltway around Washington, D.C. until I arrived at the beautiful tree-lined Route 85 which took me to Durham, North Carolina, where my son and his family reside. I love this peaceful drive through Virginia and North Carolina but I was glad to arrive at my destination.

Durham is a city that originated in 1853 during a search for a suitable rail depot for the North Carolina Railroad between Wilson and Hillsborough. An earlier post office known as Herndon's existed in the area from 1827, and another at nearby Prattsburg was established in 1836. The landowners at Prattsburg refused to sell land to the railroad. Somewhat further to the northwest a physician named Bartlett Durham lived and practiced along the route. He donated land to the railroad, which became Durham Station. Duke University, which was known as Trinity College in 1892, was established on the promise of a large endowment of money from James B. Duke in honor of his father, Washington Duke. Durham is called "The City of Medicine" and is part of the "Research Triangle" which consists of the cities of Durham, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill.

Durham grew rapidly after the Civil War due to a thriving tobacco industry. It also developed into a vibrant African-American community. The center of this community was called Hayti where successful African-American businesses such as banks and insurance companies thrived and it became known as "Black Wall Street."

Durham's fortunes started to decline in the mid-twentieth century. The Hayti community was tom down to make way for the Durham Freeway. Textile mills were closed down and competition from other tobacco companies harmed the tobacco community. I was amazed to see the red brick tobacco buildings downtown that were not tom down, but were developed in the 1980's into apartments and condos. In the center, the Liggitt-Myers building protruded into the sky, the home of L & M cigarettes. This was the beginning of Durham's re-vitalization. A strong civil rights movement developed at this time also and Martin Luther King, Jr. visited there on several occasions.

Durham's most famous professional sports team is the Durham Bulls International Baseball. The movie "Bull Durham" was produced there in 1988. Another point of interest is the Carolina Theater which dates back to 1926 and is the last of the thirteen original theaters in the city.

Before I came home my son took me for a visit to the beach which is about two hours away from Durham. It was an area of three beaches, Wilmington Beach, Kure Beach, and Carolina Beach. Now, I know there are millions of beach lovers out there but, sad to say, I am not one of them. I love watching the ocean waves break on the shore and feeling its salty coolness on my feet and legs. The cool, wet sand along the water is nice too but I hate the sand-that hot, grainy sand you have to walk in before you get to the cool stuff. It seems to creep into every pore of my body! I enjoyed my trip but I think I might stay in the mountains next year.

Thought for the day: What is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know.

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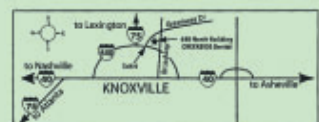
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