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Eddie Cureton Named Fire Chief

Mayor Victor Ashe appointed retired Assistant Fire Chief Eddie Cureton as the new Fire Chief to lead the 380-member Knoxville Fire Department, effective August 1. Fire Chief Gene Hamlin announced his retirement effective July 31, 2002, after a distinguished 39-year career with the Knoxville Fire Department.

Mayor Ashe praised Chief Hamlin for "his dedicated years of outstanding service to the people of Knoxville. Gene is a good person who worked tirelessly for enhanced fire protection all across Knoxville. As Fire Chief, Gene oversaw tremendous improvements in the department's fire suppression equipment as well as improving specialized services such as implementing water-based fire protection at Volunteer Landing and improved rescue capabilities," Ashe added.

During Hamlin's tenure

- 141 new firefighters were hired, six people have been promoted to Assistant Chief, 55 promoted to Fire Officer; 94 to Master Firefighter and 100 to Senior Firefighter positions.
- KFD is now trained, certified and equipped in high angle, trench, confined space and water rescue.
- With the addition of the Rescue Boat, hundreds of thousands of dollars in property have been saved and at least one life.
- The new 135' aerial platform was instrumental in saving a whole block on Gay Street when the Woodruff Building next to the Smoky Mountain Brewery caught fire.

For the first time KFD came on line to electronically provide the first incident reports to the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System and the National Fire Incident Reporting System, enabling the city to apply for federal grants.



Eddie Cureton is congratulated on his new appointment.

Ashe said that Cureton will forgo his city pension while Fire Chief.

"Eddie Cureton is a highly-respected firefighter throughout this community. He has experience in all areas of fire suppression, and I am sure he will be a solid chief that will continue the progress that has made the Knoxville Fire Department one of the best in the Southeast," Ashe added.

Cureton, the 18th Fire Chief in the city's history, was with the KFD for 38 years before retiring last May. He has specialized training in EMS, rescue operations and fire department management. Cureton is also a graduate of the United States Air Force National Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

Cureton is familiar with the type of increased responsibility as a result of the new Convention Center. He worked with two world's fairs, one in Knoxville (1982) and the other in New Orleans (1984). Cureton developed and directed the fire, medical and hazardous materials response for both events. At both fairs he raised millions of dollars for equipment to service the fair, saving money for both World's Fair organizations.

"I appreciate the mayor's confidence in appointing me to the position of Fire Chief and to serve the best firefighters in the nation," Cureton said.

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Mayor's Message



Clinch Avenue Viaduct and Convention Center Open

In July, after more than twenty years, we reopened the Clinch Avenue Viaduct to motor traffic. Once again downtown is directly connected to the World's Fair Drive community, including the Candy Factory and the Knoxville Museum of Art, as well as the Fort Sanders neighborhood with UT beyond. Since 1980 the closure had created a chasm for traffic. However, the impending opening of the Knoxville Convention Center necessitated not only the reopening but the widening of the throughway. I am pleased that the reconfigured bridge has retained its 19th century-style detailing. I hope that those of you traveling through downtown have used the viaduct.

Less than two weeks later we formally opened the Knoxville Convention Center with its serving as the headquarters for the AAU Junior Olympic Games. Four years ago, I committed to the readiness of the convention center, and my word has been kept. More than 16,000 athletes accompanied by more than 20,000 parents, coaches and other supporters have been charmed by the friendliness of area residents. To those of you who have come in contact with our visitors, thanks for making such a positive impression on them. With the projected economic impact set at \$50 million, we welcomed the news from Greater Knoxville Sports Corp.'s president Gloria Ray that Knoxville is working toward being named as one of the five cities to rotate as host to this annual event.

While many of you had seen these athletes at outlying events, you still have not had the opportunity to see the convention center. Mark your calendars now for the weekend of October 18 and 19 for the grand opening. Included in the festivities are tours and open entertainment. I know that once you see this 500,000+ square foot facility, you'll be as proud as I am.

Too many toppings from which to choose! *Conversion to updated computer programs for personnel, codes enforcement and beer permits required hard work; and everyone involved celebrated the completion of the projects with a banana split party. Shown are Frances Riddle, Angela Lewis and Jerry Randles.*



Jay, we'll miss you!! *Alinda Cox, Karen Abshire, Michael Humphrey, and Patti Randolph were among the many city employees who said farewell to Jay Phillips on June 27. Jay's been with the City Information Systems Department as a Systems Engineer and Technical Trainer for more than 12 years. He's helped numerous city employees master the necessary computer skills to perform their jobs effectively and efficiently. We'll all miss Jay's typical response to the greeting of "how ya' doing?" "I was pretty good," he would say, "but I got over it."*



With a growing Latino community, Community Relations' Coordinator Marva Martin is working with city employees to address ways in which to deal with language barriers. Left to right in an initial discussion are Steve King, Engineering; Stephanie Brewer, Administration; Pat Armstrong, Fire; Valerie Coleman, Civil Service; Marva Martin; Savannah Ayub with KPD (who is fluent in Spanish); and Mark Rigsby, Development's Fair Housing Division.

Contributors this month: Mary Alarcon, Michelle Black, Martha Collier and Roger Milam. *CityWorks* is published for the employees of the City of Knoxville. All suggestions or comments are welcomed and should be sent to: Marie Alcorn, Department of Public Affairs, City County Building, 215-2264, Fax 215-4299, e-mail: malcorn.

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Numerous Police Officers Recognized

Officers of the Month, May & June

The recipient of the May Officer of the Month Award is Officer Seth McMillan, a two-year employee, who was honored for his work in the arrest of an individual wanted in a prescription fraud case.

Chief Keith said Officer McMillan responded to a possible prescription fraud call to conduct an investigation. After interviewing several employees and witnesses, Officer McMillan was able to identify the suspect. The suspect, thirty-one year old Bobbi Jo Hartsfield of Powell, was already on probation in Florida for another prescription fraud case.

On May 29, at approximately 9 p.m., Officer McMillan received information that Hartsfield had called in another fraudulent prescription. Even though McMillan was off duty and preparing to leave on vacation, he responded to the pharmacy to investigate. At 10:22 p.m. Officer McMillan arrested Hartsfield at the pharmacy.

Hartsfield was charged with prescription fraud, possession of a schedule II drug for resale, possession of a schedule VI drug and criminal impersonation.

Mayor Ashe and Police Chief Keith named Officer Darrell Griffin and Officer David

Powell as the June Officers of the Month for their work in ceasing the startup of a potential “drug shop” and “call service” in the Knoxville Community. Both Officers Griffin and Powell have been with the department for four years.

On June 17, at approximately 1:30 a.m., the two officers responded to a disturbance call at the Super 8 Motel on Papermill Road. While investigating, the officers located two men coming out of a room. The two men were questioned and released. Because the two men were acting extremely nervous, the officers decided to knock on the door of the room from where the two men had just left.

Three females were in the room and were interviewed. The officers were granted permission to search the room. An electronic scale, bullets and a small safe were discovered in the room. Upon receiving permission to open the safe, the officers found five ounces of cocaine, two ounces of crack cocaine, a 45-caliber semi-automatic pistol and two thousand dollars in cash.

The investigation revealed that the three girls had come from New York to start a “call service” in the Knoxville area. After further investigation, it was determined that one of the two men encountered earlier by the

officers was involved in a plan to set up a “drug shop” in Knoxville.

This investigation was turned over to investigators from the Organized Crime Unit. That investigation has opened up into a larger multi-state investigation that should bring forth Federal drug charges and arrests.

Life Saving Award

Officer Tom Walker was recognized with the Knoxville Police Department’s Life Saving Award.

On June 2, Officer Walker responded to an accident with injury call on Price Avenue near McEver Street. Upon arrival, Officer Walker discovered the accident involved one vehicle that had left the roadway and struck two trees. The driver of the vehicle was still behind the wheel of the car. Walker heard the driver breath once, and then she stopped breathing. The driver’s son informed Walker that his mother had a history of heart problems.

Officer Walker immediately began CPR and continued until first responder arrived and took over treatment. The victim, Ms. Ola Marie Noe, was transported to UT Hospital where she was treated for cardiac arrest.

City Employee Gains Insight through Citizens' Police Academy

*Submitted by Martha Collier
Department of Development*

Most of us know very little about our Knoxville Police Department until we have a problem requiring an officer’s help. The Citizens’ Police Academy, designed to teach non-uniformed citizens how KPD works, is a wonderful program available to all of us, free of charge. For less than 40 hours of your time, you gain an understanding of the KPD that would be next to impossible to find elsewhere.

Carolyn Cate, Office of Special Events, her husband, Carroll Cate and I graduated from the Citizens’ Police Academy on Tuesday, June 4. We met several new people and had a lot of fun learning about the operations of our nationally recognized Police Department. The training officers are exceptional at imparting their knowledge and experience to civilians in a highly interesting format.

This class holds the distinction of being the only one of its kind to be visited by the

President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, as part of a national interest in volunteerism. It was a great honor for



President Bush at Moses Training Center with Citizens Police Academy members.

each one of us to be greeted individually by the President.

One early Saturday morning during our course, we gathered at the simulated firing range and fired laser guns seeing some of the things that police officers might experience in different scenarios. From there, we

met at Chilhowee Park to see an exhibition by the Canine Unit; then we were off to the races! Two of “Knoxville’s Finest” actually had the courage to let each of us take a test drive in a real in-working-order-when-we-started police car. Thankfully, these were shop cars with the cameras removed; otherwise, the utter humiliation might have outweighed the fun for some of us. I received a unique distinction in that I was asked to drive the course backwards so the instructor could pick up the flattened orange cones and replace them for the next driver!

Carolyn and Carroll have each participated in a ride-along with an officer. It was an interesting, eye-opening experience for each of them, but Carolyn says it would really take some effort to become accustomed to eating her main meal at 3 a.m.

As a result of our classes, all of us became alumni and can volunteer with the Police Department on an as needed basis. We highly recommend participating in the Citizens Police Academy to each of you.

Water Quality Job #1



Near the mouth of First Creek are city water quality staff members: (l. to r.): Bob Jones, Brent Johnson, David Hagerman, Roger Milam and Mark Johnson.

Recently engineering staff members joined the "Friends of First Creek" and other organizations in the release of sturgeon fish. At the event Deputy to the Mayor Craig Griffith noted that "Water quality was ranked by 86% of those responding to our annual survey as a priority for the city, and releasing these fish demonstrates that we are working in the right direction in regard to the water quality of First Creek as well as other waterways throughout Knoxville."

The fish came from the Tupelo, Mississippi, US Fish & Wildlife Service Hatchery.

The sturgeon disappeared from the rivers here many years ago, but with the revived interest in environmental programs, implementation of the Clean Water Act and numerous gains in water quality management and regulations, the river is now able to again sustain the fish. Known as the "King of Fishes," this is a positive addition to the aquatic ecosystem.

Also on hand were restaurant representatives who have adopted Best Management Practices minimizing pollutants going into the water systems, as well as adult and high

school volunteers. An aim of the city is to also distribute materials, as they have to restaurants, regarding vehicle washing, pressure washing and pet concerns

Water quality staff members are also focused on other systems throughout the city, such as on Third Creek. As an outgrowth of a UT ecology class, and in cooperation with Tennessee Valley Authority and Tennessee



Department of Environmental Conservation, Mark Johnson and Bob Jones (above), conducted a "fish shocking" to develop an Index of Biotic Integrity (a count of the fish which corresponds to water quality).

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