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TOWN HALL EAST NEWSLETTER

January 2005

***NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 10, 2005:
OUR SPEAKER IS BILL ELMORE, KUB VP OF OPERATIONS***

Learn More From Elmore: Please join us in welcoming Bill Elmore, Vice President for Operations of the Knoxville Utilities Board as our guest speaker at the January 10, 2005 meeting of Town Hall East. As many of you know, KUB has been fined, sued and is under the gun to upgrade its sewer/wastewater system on an accelerated basis in order to meet US EPA and Tennessee environmental laws and regulations controlling storm event discharges which overload the present system. To obtain closure on these issues, a consent arrangement has been put into place under which KUB has agreed to do some \$550 million in construction work over the next 10 years. Such work would more normally be scheduled over a 20-year period, but has now been compressed into a 10-year period to satisfy the regulators. There is no free lunch and the construction of the many miles of new lines and system fixes will have to be paid by KUB's ratepayers. Sewer rates will double or even triple over the next few years, starting this April. Please come and learn more about this major wastewater system effort, and ask Mr. Elmore those questions you have been dying to ask. The meeting will be Monday, January 10th at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall behind Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 4904 Asheville Highway. Please join us!

Kub Wastewater Litigation Impacts Rates. Familiar headlines? Do you recall that KUB has been fined over \$300,000 for sanitary system overflows ("SSOs") in recent months? That's just the tip of the iceberg. Sewer rates may have to triple over the next 2 years to keep pace with capital expenditures. For KUB is now under the environmental regulator's gun to eliminate wastewater/stormwater excursions which occur during heavy rainfalls, and overflow or spill raw sewage or contaminated water out of the system and into streams, etc. The resolution of this regulatory dilemma has been a Consent Decree between KUB and EPA to get things right within a 10 year period -- a massive construction effort will be underway to meet that target date. KUB projects it will spend over \$500 million to do so and, yes, the ratepayers will be the one paying for it. (There are reportedly some 63,000 wastewater customers). Our own Al Acker will serve on KUB's "Pace 10" Program (Partners Acting For A Cleaner Environment) and will help keep us informed as this progresses. In the meantime, aren't you curious as to what exactly they are doing? Is it worth it? What's wrong with SSOs? Are there any options? Are there other means to avoid some of these costs? Please come to THE's January 10th meeting to learn more from Elmore, engineer Bill Elmore that is. He is KUB's top official in charge of this effort.

East Knoxville Library Branch On The Move. As the smoke clears from the wheel tax wars and recent elections, Mayor Mike Ragsdale and his team are busy working on the new Burlington Branch Library that folks keep asking about. The Branch is moving forward. An architect, East Knoxville resident Margaret Butler's firm (Cockrill Design & Planning, Inc.), has been selected for the design; meanwhile planning work continues to finalize a site for the new 12,000 sq. ft. branch. Mayor Mike says, barring the unforeseen, the County hopes to break ground this fiscal year (before July 1, 2005). The budget is \$2.5 million with a

projected completion date in August 2006. Mayor Mike says he hopes this will be as good a project as the branch that just opened in Fountain City. Library Director Larry Frank will join us for the March 14th THE meeting to fill in the details and answer your questions.

Attention: January 10, 2005 public meeting date! Mark your calendars: Another community input meeting is scheduled for Jan 10th at 5:00 pm at the Jacob's Building in Chilhowee Park. Your attendance is needed. The time is subject to change (6 pm was also mentioned at one time). In case you haven't heard, there has been an ongoing tug of war over siting the branch, with some folks saying the Five Points area needs it to help rehab their area. With all due respect, that's not the purpose of a branch library. It must be conveniently situated to be accessible to the broad geographic area which it serves. Asheville Highway has proven it is a convenient location for the several communities that share this branch, since the branch was rescued from a steady decline in use at the old, more remote site. In addition, the Downtown will eventually house the system's state-of-the-art Main Library. To build a branch a mile or so away from that main facility makes no economic or community service sense. So, if you care about the future of your Burlington Branch, you need to be as vocal as the special interest proponents have been. Community Services Department head, Cynthia Finch reports that this will be discussed at the second community input meeting on January 10th. Plan to attend. And contact your County Commissioner (Diane Jordan and Tank Strickland, Mary Lou Horner and Scott Moore) about the importance of this Branch to this broad area. Speak now or forever lose your branch.

Light The Hills Raises Funds For Burlington Branch Library. THE leader and campaign chair Darla Garrison would like to thank all who participated in the 2nd Annual "Light the Hills" luminary sales project. Darla reports the group raised close to \$1,000 this year. A special thanks goes to Sharon Davis and Tammy White who helped Darla pull this event together. Hopefully, the event will continue to grow in participation each year. The money will go to help the Burlington Branch Library, which had its modest book acquisition budget cut in half this past year. Come to think of it, why not donate that novel or history you just read to Burlington...or write them a check. By so doing, you are giving a gift to the whole community. Thanks.

3RD ANNUAL HOLSTON RIVER FESTIVAL SEEKS VENDORS: The festival is scheduled for April 16, 2005, in conjunction with the Dogwood Arts Festival. We are currently looking for vendors and exhibitors. Our focus is on arts, antiques, gardening, and children's activities and items. Vendor/exhibitor brochures and registration forms will be available soon at www.dogwoodarts.com with an early registration deadline of Feb. 28th. You may also contact Melissa Hansen-Petrik at melissahp@comcast.net or 523-9117 if you wish to participate. Join in the fun and support this East-side event!

PAPA D'S CHICAGO STYLE RESTAURANT TO SERVE YOU A new restaurant/coffee shop, known as "PAPA D's Chicago Style" aka the "THE COFFEE CUP," is serving our area from 4700 Holston Drive—the former location of a florest shop for many years. This snug little local eatery serves breakfast, lunch and dinner items, from 9 to 6 pm Monday thru Friday and Saturdays from 8 to 5. Hours may expand somewhat after the holidays and depending on your patronage. About 5 years ago, Maria and Gene Emerson moved to Holston Hills from the Chicago area and brought with them that city's famous Italian beef sandwiches (a thin marinated beef hoagie), along with meatball, sausage and other sandwiches, burgers, chicken, fish and other traditional fare. For now, breakfast starts at 9 am and offers bacon or sausage and eggs, omeletts, pancakes, hash browns, biscuits, etc. and that hot cup of Java you've been seeking to get you going. An outdoor deck/patio awaits you and Spring for warmer weather dining al fresco. Stop in and give the neighbor's place a try.

Traffic Calming Committee Update Al Acker reports that the Traffic Calming Committee's work has been approved. Councilman Joe Bailey, Committee Chairman, presented those recommendations to City Council at Council's November 23rd Meeting. They included the following:

1. Provide community education;
2. Purchase additional radar guns so that neighborhood patrol officers have speed enforcement tools;
3. Provide additional manpower for neighborhood speed enforcement;
4. Add signs to define neighborhood speed control/enforcement;
5. Provide process for communities to obtain speed calming devices (humps, bumps, circles);
6. Utilize Digital Camera/Radar technology to audit and enforce intersection and speed safety; and

7. Install physical traffic calming designs for the areas having completed an evaluation. Although the Committee has completed it's initial objective, it will remain active to update recommendations after a review of the experience in implementing the programs. Originally, \$200,000 was in this year's budget for Traffic Calming, but Mayor Haslam added another \$50,000 and Councilwoman Roddy threw in \$10,500 from her discretionary 202 funds. The total budget funds available this year is, thus, \$260,500.

Krogers Asheville Highway, Do They Cut The Mustard?? Ever been in a conversation when a neighbor asks: why do we have to drive to Sequoyah to find a decent Krogers? Or, do you go to the Food City further out on Asheville Highway to get better meat, better selections, or better stock management? Have you ever asked: What's with this store? Are we pegged as less desirable customers? Economically challenged? Is this the "oh, that's just East Knoxville" mindset?? In fairness, we recognize that a number of improvements have been made to our neighborhood store, but questions remain. Why is the same rigor not expected of Krogers here? Why doesn't Krogers rotate its Sequoyah management team or its Farragut team here for a month and shake things up? Stay tuned. We have invited our friends from Krogers management to answer these and other questions you may have, *so that they may better serve you, the customer.* Lift us up with great service. Don't dumb it down to the lowest common denominator.

Let's Talk: We have invited Asheville Highway Store Manager, Mike Norman, as well as the Kroger District Manager, Hunter McWilliams, to visit us at the January 10th Meeting to address your questions and discuss the future of our area's largest grocery store. If you have a specific suggestion or complaint that won't wait, you can contact Mike at the store (521-2922) or Hunter at Kroger's Cedar Bluff offices (693-2853).

T-shirt giveaway at January meeting. Members who pay or have paid their 2004-05 dues and agree to receive the newsletter via email will be entered in a drawing for our one of our exclusive Town Hall East t-shirts. Join or renew today to be eligible!

2004-2005 DUES: JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Support Your Community Organization

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Please provide an email address if would like us to inform you of happenings between newsletters. The

... Are you willing to receive the Newsletter via email? yes no

NOTICE: Dues have increased. The amounts shown are PER PERSON.

PLEASE opt to receive the Newsletter by email. It's faster, cheaper, and gives you "hot links" to follow through on. Publishing is our major expense; electronic delivery saves \$\$ that will be used for other important neighborhood efforts. You could win a "Discover East Knoxville" t-shirts!

_____ \$10/person **Active member:** I live in city ward 13, 30, 31, or 75 (or still in the county but adjacent to ward 75)

_____ \$10/person **Associate member:** I live outside wards 13, 30, 31, or 75 but would still like to receive the newsletter and keep informed of Town Hall East activities

_____ \$25/person **Business member:** I own or manage a business in city ward 13, 30, 31, or 75 and would like to support the neighborhood and the residents of Town Hall East

_____ Total enclosed. Send your payment to: Town Hall East, Inc., P.O. Box 6207, Knoxville, TN 37914.