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**TOWN HALL EAST NEWSLETTER**

November 2004

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**NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 8, 2004: WAL-MART EXPANSION – LOVE’S CREEK GREENWAY  
PLUS TRAFFIC CALMING UPDATE**

Kim Henry with SITE, Inc., the engineering firm hired by Wal-Mart to design their expansion into a Super Wal-Mart at East Towne, will speak – our interest is in how we can work together with Wal-Mart to protect Love’s Creek and assure the Love’s Creek greenway can extend to Knoxville Center Mall unimpeded (see related story below). The meeting will be Monday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall behind Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 4904 Asheville Highway. Please join us! Turn off that “reality” show and join your neighbors in planning and discussing our future. No excuses, bring the kids, they can learn citizenship skills not available in any school.

**The Confluence Of Loves Creek And Wal-Mart.** As you know, the northern segment of the Love’s Creek Greenway Trail – which is part of the overall Knoxville Center (aka East Towne) to Downtown Riverfront Trail -- has been a focal point for T.H.E.’s trail efforts during the last year, and we have previously reported developments in the clearing and layout work done by our volunteers this past summer along the Spring Place to Buffat Mill Rd. portion. The latest development has been the announcement of plans for a Super Wal-Mart expansion at the present site near Knoxville Center Mall. This came up in the form of an announcement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that a Section 404 Water Pollution Control Act permit was being sought by Wal-Mart to relocate a portion of Love’s Creek eastward—so the store could fill the existing lower-lying creek site and expand its store footprint on the east side of the present property...creating sort of an oxbow eastward towards the road. T.H.E. representatives have expressed the community’s concerns to the Corps and TDEC over the potential impact on water quality at Love’s Creek and the spring used by many area residents (located ½ mile downstream from the site) and also on the long-standing plans for the greenway trail to parallel this creek to the mall and, possibly beyond, to the remaining public area of the old Farmer’s Market site.

Our own Nick Della Volpe, Will Skelton (Knoxville Greenways Advisory Group) and the City Park’s Donna Young and others met with Wal-Mart’s engineers (Site Eng: Kim Henry--overall project; S&ME: Liz Porter and Ken Barry--environmental engineering) in mid-October to discuss the proposed plan to relocate Love’s Creek. The engineers say Wal-Mart will incorporate a trail segment on their property along the retaining wall (eventually an 80’ staged drop from parking area to creek bottom)—so that the trail would run between the store and the relocated creek. Wal-Mart also says they will try to establish a 3 acre wetland habitat replacement in the lowlands.

Aside from this Wal-Mart tract, The City and our greenway team still need to locate and work out a segment of the trail from the intersection of Buffat Mill Rd./Love’s Creek Rd. to the back of the Wal-Mart property and along the creek between the Taco Bell and the Krystals, which border the creek at Millertown Pike. We will be working with those landowners to secure the necessary rights, and with the City of Knoxville to build out the trail. Other interested community groups include Spring Place, Alice Bell-Spring Hill Neighborhood Association, Northeast Knox County Preservation Association, and Fountain City Town Hall. Contact Nick Della Volpe (525-4600; [ndellavolpe@wmssp.com](mailto:ndellavolpe@wmssp.com)) or Donna Young, City Parks (215-2807; [dyoung@ci.knoxville.tn.us](mailto:dyoung@ci.knoxville.tn.us)) if you have comments or concerns. Better yet come to the Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> T.H.E. meeting and talk directly to the Wal-Mart representatives and to the City.

See the related story on page 2 about the Buffat family history ...

**Traffic Calming Update At The November 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting.** This newsletter will postdate the October 20<sup>th</sup> public input meeting on the City of Knoxville Traffic Calming Committee’s Draft Report. However, City Councilman and Traffic Calming Committee Chairman Bob Becker plans to join us November 8<sup>th</sup> to review the findings and report prior to its approval by City Council. As we reported in September, neighbors Al Acker and Christina Graffeo represent citizens of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> City Council districts, respectively, along with representatives from the other 4 City Council districts, 4 City Council members, and other City representatives. To see what the Traffic Calming Committee has been up to since its formation earlier this year AND to see the draft report, check out their website at [www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/traffic.asp](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/traffic.asp). And next time you see Al or Christy around the neighborhood, PLEASE THANK THEM for all their dedication and hard work ... this has been a very intensive effort. For more information, contact Al at 523-8062 or [alacker11358@aol.com](mailto:alacker11358@aol.com). Note: there will also be a review of the Digital Camera/Radar Enforcement Technology at the Police Dept’s Training Academy, 220 Carrick St. on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3-5 pm.

**WE SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES – TOWN HALL EAST HONORS WISHBONES AND MARTIN MARINE NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>** as we continue to recognize new businesses along the Magnolia/Asheville Highway corridor every meeting this year. Both **Wishbones Famous Fingers and Wings** and **Martin Marine** have reused existing buildings and

greatly improved their appearance to make East Knoxville a more aesthetically appealing place to live, work, and play...and invest. Quality East Knoxville businesses assure our area remains a bright and vital place to live. These are the Real Headlines...even though the News Sentinel isn't savvy enough to realize it yet. Please join us in honoring these folks who chose our community to open their businesses. If you would like to nominate a worthy business, contact coordinator Bert Benedict at 546-6674.

**What's In A Name?** Within our community, long ago, there lived a very determined family named Buffat, who emigrated to Knoxville from Switzerland in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (some 20 French-Swiss families came to Knoxville from 1848 to 1860 to escape religious persecution during the Reform era). Alfred Buffat's family had a farm located in the Love's Creek area, including the current Spring Hill Park. The original home of the family (now a blue 2-story) still stands proudly near the corner of Love's Creek and Buffat Mill Rd. (and indeed has been nominated for inclusion on the National Historic Register). In 1860, the family received an inheritance from Switzerland and used it to build a grist mill on the east end of their property, hence the name "Buffat Mill Road." That road was built to carry their goods, and those of other farms, to the Knoxville's market. The mill was powered by the stream located along Love's Creek. The mill began its operation some time in February 1861 grinding corn and other grain. It proved to be a great benefit not only to the family but also to the surrounding country during the trying times of the Civil War. Learn more about the mill and how this courageous family helped to feed the local people during the preparation of Sherman's army for the famous march through Georgia and Longstreet's army march on Knoxville in the next T.H.E. Newsletter.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 3<sup>RD</sup> HOLSTON RIVER FESTIVAL SLATED FOR APRIL 16, 2005:** This combination musical extravaganza, eclectic marketplace, and child's delight celebrates East Knoxville and East Knox County as part of the Dogwood Arts Festival in April. Do you have musical or artistic talents to share? Are you interested in being a vendor or exhibitor of food, gardening, crafts, antiques, or children's items and activities? This is a celebration of the East side and we want to highlight everything wonderful we have to offer. Contact Melissa Hansen-Petrik at [melissahp@comcast.net](mailto:melissahp@comcast.net) or 523-9117 if you wish to participate. Vendor/exhibitor brochures and registration forms will be available soon. We also have a tiny, but ambitious committee organizing this one-of-a-kind event ... please join us to help make this festival bigger and better than ever. We especially need willing volunteers to help coordinate our burgeoning children's area and festival parking. Call today!

**NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION ZONING, PHASE 1: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Town Hall East began efforts over two years ago to protect the integrity of the area by pursuing Neighborhood Conservation (NC-1) zoning. This overlay zoning would provide us with some regulation as to the outward appearance of new homes built in the area and to changes made to existing structures. New subdivisions have very strict regulations, but our older neighborhood has no such protections. Thus, doublewide trailers and substandard housing are currently permissible. An NC-1 overlay means permits would pass through the Historic Zoning Commission for approval. The good news is, we write our own guidelines (subject to neighborhood approval, of course) under the guidance of the Metropolitan Planning Commission. We have come a long way toward our goal, having gathered information on build dates of approximately 900 homes and taking digital photographs of all of them. Because our area is very large and very diverse in housing structures, we have divided it into phases for implementation. The first phase identified includes the Country Club, Holston Hills Road from Chilhowee Drive to just past Cliffside, Cliffside, upper Crestwood, and a good portion of Green Valley. **WE NEED A VOLUNTEER OR TWO FROM THIS AREA TO HELP IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES.** Examples include setbacks, trees and landscaping, fencing, and outward appearance of homes...for example, are there typical roof slopes? Are homes primarily brick or stone? What are important characteristics we need to preserve? We do need your help to move forward ... contact Melissa Hansen-Petrik at [melissahp@comcast.net](mailto:melissahp@comcast.net) or 523-9117 to offer your services as a part of this committee and help protect the architectural integrity of East Knoxville.

**DON'T LET THIS BE THE LAST TOWN HALL EAST NEWSLETTER ... VOLUNTEER TODAY TO BE OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR!** We are seeking a newsletter editor to start by early December. Contact Jeff Petrik for details ... its only published five times a year, so it is not a huge commitment. You may even have some great new ideas for design and content ... get creative and do something great for your community! You can reach Jeff at 523-9117 or [jeffpetrik@comcast.net](mailto:jeffpetrik@comcast.net).

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**2004-2005 DUES ARE NOW DUE!! 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.

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

**NOTICE: Dues have increased. The amounts listed are PER PERSON. For 2 adults, dues are \$20. Write the number of memberships you are paying for in each category and the total amount below. 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. Sign up for email delivery and you will be entered in a drawing to win one of our exclusive "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

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