

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

December 10, 2014

Greatly missed

Like many of you, I was saddened by the recent, unexpected death of Barbara Snyder. We lost a great Tullahoma citizen. Barbara was a committed volunteer to many causes that were near to her heart, including education and the environment, just to name a couple. Barbara was a retired teacher, but she never really stopped teaching. When she was honored as the Tullahoma News' Volunteer of the Year not too long ago, I made the comment I wish we had 100 community volunteers just like Barbara. I'm so glad she was recognized with this special award.

The last email I got from Barbara was shortly after Make A Difference Day in October. She was scheduled for knee replacement surgery and that had slowed her down a bit. She apologized that her knee just would not allow her to get out and actively participate in one of the many projects around town that Saturday. But she said she had called two elderly acquaintances on the phone and had nice conversations with both. That sounds just like Barbara. She couldn't do much that day, but she did what she could. We should all strive to be more like that. Condolences to her family.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thanks to the Tullahoma Community Pride Foundation for hosting the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Downtown Caboose Park last Saturday. Everyone enjoyed the caroling and refreshments. Please stop and take a look at the new lights on the memorial tree dedicated to former Mayor George Orr.

Tennessee Promise

The final mentor training session was held last Wednesday and several of us benefitted from the one hour exercise. The purpose of the mentor training was to acquaint us of our responsibilities to assist THS seniors planning to attend a technical school or community college next fall as part of Gov. Haslam's Tennessee Promise program. 209 THS seniors signed up for the program and 58 Tullahomans signed up to be mentors. Gov. Haslam's program provides free two-year tuition to select schools. In exchange, students must meet certain criteria and perform community service. This is part of the governor's plan to increase the percentage of Tennessee adults with college degrees to 55%. An ambitious undertaking, but definitely worthwhile.

Janie Price visits Tullahoma

I was pleased to greet Janie Price, widow of long-time country music star Ray Price, at South Jackson Civic Center last week. She stopped in town as part of her travels to promote her husband's final album. Long-time Tullahoma resident Jon Gray wrote the hit single "Beauty Lies in the Eyes of the Beholder," which was featured on the album.

Thanks, Chamber

The 58th annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade was a big hit Friday night despite the rainy forecast. I walked the parade route and did not feel a drop of rain. It's easy to watch the parade from the sidelines or on TV and not realize all the work that goes into the parade. My hat is off to the Stan McNabb Automotive Group for sponsoring the parade, Chamber staff and volunteers for hundreds

of man and woman hours pulling together all the details, Justus Sheffield for serving as Grand Marshal, South Jackson Civic Center for hosting the tree-lighting ceremony and pre-parade reception and most departments of your city government for their support. After the parade Evelyn and I got a bite to eat downtown and were headed home around 9:30. By this time it was pouring down rain. We passed a group of walking Public Works employees on Jackson Street picking up the trash left behind by parade viewers. I stopped to thank each of the men for their service.

A special feature of the parade this year was the Reindeer Run, a walk/run benefitting the Tullahoma Animal Shelter. The run has a lot of potential and I hope it gets bigger each year.

Christmas Concert a hit

It was standing-room-only at the 7th Annual Tullahoma Downtown Lion's Club presentation of the Community Christmas Concert held Saturday evening at Grace Baptist Church. Director Ann Baldwin did a terrific job leading the seven instrumentalists and 70 choir members through sixteen Christmas songs. There was something for everyone. The concert takes many months of practice. In fact, the group starts practice the Monday after Labor Day and practices each Monday until the concert. She also announced anyone with a passion for singing is welcome to join the group. Thanks, Downtown Lions Club members and sponsors for your support.

THS senior recognized

Congratulations to THS senior Ashley Roepke for being selected as one of only 10 Tennessee high school seniors to be nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. Students were selected based on their service in their schools and communities, leadership roles, academic achievement, and perseverance in the face of extraordinary challenges. Tennessee finalists will compete with their peers from across the country for a spot in the U.S. Presidential Scholars program. In May the national Presidential Scholars program selects the national winners, who will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June.

Show at SJCC this Friday

Don't forget South Jackson Civic Center will welcome The Beatles tribute band "The Return" to Tullahoma this Friday at 7:30. We saw this band a few years ago and they do a great job recreating The Beatles' music. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Call 455-5321 or visit www.southjackson.org for tickets.

Thought of the Week: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill

Have an idea or suggestion? Contact me at mayer@tullahomatan.gov, voice mail 581-0360, PO Box 807, or Facebook.