

## NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

March 18, 2015

### Tullahoma Plaza tidbit

I hope you saw the informative article in the News last week about Ollie's Bargain Outlet moving into the Plaza Shopping Center. After the article appeared a friend emailed me with some insight into the development of the plaza. This long-time Tullahoman tells me that Eddie Street, the street perpendicular to West Lincoln at the traffic light, next to American City Bank, has not always dead-ended at Lincoln Street. Let my friend tell the rest of the story:

"Way back in the 1950s before the shopping area now known as the Lincoln Plaza Shopping Center was there, Eddie Street dead-ended at where the Beauty Chalet Hair Salon now sits. I lived for some years on the exact spot where the Beauty Chalet now stands. There were only two houses at the end of the street (mine and one other). The first phase of the shopping center took my neighbor's home. When rumors of a second building phase which would be located behind and to the side of my house surfaced, it was evident this was no longer a viable place for a home. I was approached by the folk that built the Beauty Chalet and sold it to them."

Thanks to my friend for sharing this interesting tidbit about Tullahoma's retail history.

### African choir

First Baptist Church's Minister to Children, Keith Venable, emailed me about an exciting program coming to Tullahoma. On Friday, March 27 at 6:30 pm, the church will host the internationally-recognized Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda, Africa. These orphaned children have seen first-hand the effects of civil unrest and diseases in truly devastating ways. The choir is traveling throughout the United States and it is a privilege that Tullahoma and First Baptist Church is one of their stops. The public is invited and I hope you will attend and join with me to welcome these children to Tullahoma.

### Get Fit! Tullahoma

I was so proud of our community while standing on the stage with Governor Haslam last Wednesday during the Healthy Tennessee presentation. Tullahoma (along with Franklin) was one of two middle Tennessee communities recognized for our health and fitness initiatives. This recognition was due to our Get Fit! Tullahoma and other initiatives that promoted events like pedometer give-aways, Couch to 5K events, health and wellness fairs, construction of walking trails and exercise stations all over town, plus many other projects. Through the efforts of many we are changing the health and fitness culture of Tullahoma. As a community we value health and fitness and we want residents to be more fit and healthy. Studies show healthy citizens are more happy and productive citizens. Special kudos to Coordinator Winston Brooks whose fingerprints are on many of the projects mentioned above.

### Art Night a Hit

There were examples of fine art, drama, dancing, improv, music and more all over Tullahoma High School Tuesday night during the annual Arts Night. Students' work was showcased in the gym, hallways, auditoriums and Thoma Lecture Hall. The work represented students from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and it was all impressive. Large crowds roamed the school and I believe all were as impressed as Evelyn and I. Congratulations to all for a job well done.

#### Horseplay lunch

Don't forget the Horseplay fundraising luncheon Friday from 11 am to 1 pm at First United Methodist. The luncheon was postponed from two weeks ago due to icy weather. Much of the food is home-made and is always delicious. Hope to see you there!

#### Super Seniors

For the past several years the Board of Mayor and Aldermen has hosted a reception for the Senior Class Superlatives, Valedictorian and Salutatorian from THS. Last Monday we held this year's reception, recognizing each soon-to-be-graduate and wishing them well in their future endeavors. I also shared with the students we want them to continue their education, work a few years, and then return to Tullahoma to raise their families. I challenged them to return and help design and build a Tullahoma that they want, not only for them, but for future generations. I told them in closing that we'll leave the lights on for them.

Thought of the week: "A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes." – Hugh Downs

*Have an idea or suggestion? Contact me at [mayor@tullahomatin.gov](mailto:mayor@tullahomatin.gov), voice mail 581-0360, PO Box 807, or Facebook.*