

# COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

## Mayor Ron Littlefield Walks for Homeless at Grateful Gobbler

### Neighborhood Services Contact

**Ron Littlefield**  
Mayor  
757-5152

**Beverly P. Johnson**  
Administrator  
425-3730

**Anthony Sammons**  
Deputy Administrator  
425-3730

**Steve Hargis**  
Manager, Codes and Neighborhood Relations  
425-3739

**Sandra Gober**  
Manager, Economic and Community Development  
757-5133

#### In this Issue:

Mayor Ron Littlefield.....1  
 Councilwoman  
 Debbie Gaines.....1  
 Mayor Littlefield's Great  
 Ideas Competition.....2  
 Property Transformation....3  
 Neighborhood  
 Partners Projects  
 Award Ceremony.....4  
 Neighborhood Notes..... 4  
 Winter Days and Lights.....5  
 Employee Profile.....6  
 Calendar of Events.....7  
 Letter from the  
 Administrator.....7



Thanksgiving morning Mayor Ron Littlefield laced up his walking shoes to stroll the streets with the Homeless Coalition to benefit those less fortunate in our community.

"I can't think of a better way to show my support for homeless families and individuals during the holidays than to make a donation and to walk with other Chattanooga

in the Grateful Gobbler," said Mayor Ron Littlefield.

Mayor Littlefield also stated, "This is the time of year when most of us can count our many blessings, but if you're homeless, the holidays can be cold and lonely. I personally would like to challenge Chattanoogaans to use this day of Thanksgiving and overindulgence to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate by making a contribution to the Community Kitchen, the Chattanooga Room In the Inn, or any other organization that helps the homeless."

The Grateful Gobbler began in 2000, and is a major fundraiser for the Homeless Coalition, which is an association of agencies that serve the homeless population in the Chattanooga community and surrounding areas. It operates a computer-based centralized case management system that links providers in improving the quality of services to homeless. In addition, it operates a "Community Voice Mail" program that links the homeless/phoneless to employment, housing and needed health and human services.

## City Councilwoman Debbie Gaines, District 9



Debbie Gaines was elected to the City Council May 2006, to complete the term of former City Councilman Yusuf Hakeem, who re-

signed earlier in the year. Ms. Gaines graduated from Brainerd High School, attended McKenzie College, and is retired from Hamilton County government, including 23 years in the County Commission office, the last six as Legislative Administrator. As the commissioners' administrative liaison, her position enabled her to see the operation of local government first-hand.

Councilwoman Gaines states, "I intend to continue to work with neighborhood organizations to improve the quality of life in the district's neighborhoods and to meet on a regular basis with police officials regarding crime in the area. I recognize the potential impact quality after-school and evening educational/recreational programs can have as

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences Takes Lead in Mayor's Great Ideas Competition Mayor Littlefield

December 2006

As the Great Ideas Competition moves into the semi-final stage of competition, Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences (CSAS) moves to the head of the class with the highest number of submissions.

"This competition is about creativity and innovation, but it takes engaging teachers and principals like those at CSAS to encourage students to develop their ideas," said Mayor Ron Littlefield. "This competition is looking for the next Einstein who could very well be at CSAS."

Mayor Ron Littlefield visited CSAS on Thursday, November 30, 2006 congratulating and recognizing the junior and senior students of Chattanooga

School for the Arts and Sciences (CSAS) for having the highest number of submissions in the Great Ideas Competition.

"Principal Ball and teacher Chris Monroe (teacher of last year's 2nd place winner) kept their students involved and excited about the competition," said Cherita Adams, project manager for Great Ideas. "This year

we have seen a great response from all of our private and public local high schools, including kids from the home school sector, however, CSAS made it their mission to be the leading school," said Adams.



(Above) Mayor Littlefield presents CSAS Teacher Chris Monroe with a proclamation

Steve Ball, CSAS Principal, said, "We are proud to participate in the Great Ideas Competition. As we prepare students for life after high school, it is important to help them develop a spirit of creativity and willingness to make our society a better place for all. The Great Ideas Competition certainly makes that happen. This year's competition has grown

in popularity with the students as the number of entries has increased dramatically over last year. I look forward to seeing all the innovative ideas of the student entries."

Mayor Littlefield along with radio sponsor 98.1 KISS FM and partners S.C.O.R.E and A.T.T.I presented Principal Ball with a \$500 voucher to purchase school supplies and honored teacher Chris Monroe for her hard work.

Two main reasons for this year's success were the catchy and cool theme Mission Possible and the Great Ideas' website. High school students were able to register their great ideas either at home with their parents or in school with their instructors.

The deadline to register ideas has been extended until Monday, December 4, 2006.

For more information about the Mayor's Great Ideas Competition, please contact Cherita Adams at (423) 425-6206 or send an email to

[adams\\_c@mail.chattanooga.gov](mailto:adams_c@mail.chattanooga.gov) or visit

[www.mayorsgreatideas.org](http://www.mayorsgreatideas.org).

## Councilwoman Gaines (continued)

constructive deterrents to crime. I hope to promote new retail businesses and to develop partnerships and incentive programs with commercial employers — particularly the hospitals in the Glenwood area — to promote training and employment among District 9 residents."

Her Council duties include serving as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. She is interested in the expansion of existing greenways (and would love to see a greenway connect the neighborhoods in her district to the Tennessee Riverwalk) as well as other recreational facilities.

Councilwoman Gaines also states, "I look forward to continuing to work with the members of the Council to make our Great City a better place in which to live."

## Property Transformation: 715 Arlington Avenue

**December 2006**



Before: 715 Arlington Avenue (exterior)

This property at 715 Arlington Avenue was in violation of the City's Housing Codes and in a state of serious disrepair due to fire damage. Prior to repairs, the structure was an eyesore, unsafe and a danger to nearby neighbors. Walls, floors and ceilings were damaged and deteriorated in every room of the house. A large amount of debris was located within the structure.



After: 715 Arlington Avenue (exterior)



Before: 715 Arlington Avenue (interior)

Property owners made the necessary repairs to bring the property into compliance with the Code, greatly improving safety and aesthetic appeal of the structure.



After: 715 Arlington Avenue (interior)

## Community Development Program Calendar

### Allocation / Public Process & Workshops

- December 7, 2006**      **Technical Assistance Workshop**
- December 15, 2006**      **Applications Due: 4:00pm (Community Development Office)**  
City Hall Annex, Room 201, 100 E. 11th Street (423) 757-5133

**REMINDER: The Community Development Block Grant Application Deadline is December 15, 2006.**



**For Immediate Release  
Friday, December 4, 2006**

## **2006-07 Neighborhood Partners Projects Awards Ceremony**

Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator of the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, is pleased to announce the 2006-07 Neighborhood Partners Projects Awards ceremony to be held Wednesday, December 13, 2006 in the 3rd Floor Atrium of Warehouse Row, located at 1110 Market Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402 from 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.

Neighborhood associations and community organizations that applied and have been approved for the 2006-07 Neighborhood Partners Project funding earlier this fall will be announced during the awards ceremony.

This year's awardees applied for projects intended to impact the Chattanooga community in the areas of neighborhood development, safety and beautification.

For more information about this release contact Darius Swoope at (423) 425-3718.

## **Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council Update**

The Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council will hold a public meeting to hear citizen concerns and issues from local area communities in regards to the new Chattanooga Police Chief. This event is scheduled for Monday, December 11, 2006 in the Auditorium of the Chattanooga - Hamilton County



Bicentennial Library (Downtown Branch) from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

CNAC will also host its annual Christmas party Tuesday, December 19, 2006 in the East Lake Senior Center, at 3208 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37407 at 6:00 P.M. For information call Charles Payne at (423) 899-1748.

**WINTER WONDER SLAM****WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 7 PM****MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**

DMI CONCERTS PRESENTS THIS CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN SHOWCASE FEATURING **TOBY MAC, HAWK NELSON, THE AFTERS, AYIESHA WOODS, FAMILY FORCE 5** AND MORE! ALL SEATS ARE GENERAL ADMISSION AT \$20.50 (PLUS CONVENIENCE FEES). GROUPS 15+ GET \$2.00 OFF EACH TICKET PLUS TWO FREE TICKETS. TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW ONLINE AT [WWW.CHATTANOOGAONSTAGE.COM](http://WWW.CHATTANOOGAONSTAGE.COM) AND AT MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM BOX OFFICE. CHARGE BY PHONE (423) 642-TIXS.

**APPALACHIAN CHRISTMAS****FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 6:45 PM****MILLER PLAZA'S WATERHOUSE PAVILION**

EXPERIENCE AN ABUNDANCE OF TRADITIONAL APPALACHIAN FOLK AND BLUEGRASS MUSIC. THE MORGANS AND LYNNE HAAS WILL BEGIN THE TOE-TAPPING EVENING FOLLOWED BY THE DISMEMBERED TENNESSEANS AND ACCLAIMED BLUEGRASS FIDDLER **BARBARA LAMB**.

**CIRQUE DREAMS JUNGLE FANTASY****THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 7:30 PM****MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL TOURING SENSATIONS CIRQUE INGENIEUX AND CIRQUE DREAMS COMES THIS LATEST REINVENTION OF THEATRICAL CIRCUS ARTISTRY. **CIRQUE DREAMS JUNGLE FANTASY** IS A COLORFUL DREAM IN AN ENCHANTED FOREST PERFORMED ON STAGE AND IN THE AIR. AN INTERNATIONAL CAST OF GRACEFUL AERIALISTS, SPINE BENDING CONTORTIONISTS, VINE SWINGING CHARACTERS, STRONGMEN AND BALANCERS BRING THIS JUNGLE DREAM TO LIFE IN A LUSH, BROADWAY SETTING. AN EXHILARATING JOURNEY THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN EXPERIENCE TOGETHER! PRESENTED BY TAPA. ALL SEATS ARE RESERVED FROM \$31.50 TO \$44.50. **BUY THREE TICKETS AT ANY PRICE LEVEL, GET ONE FREE** COURTESY OF SUNNY 92.3. TICKETS ARE ON SALE ONLINE AT [WWW.CHATTANOOGAONSTAGE.COM](http://WWW.CHATTANOOGAONSTAGE.COM) AND AT MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM BOX OFFICE. CHARGE BY PHONE (423) 642-TIXS.

**"THE NUTCRACKER"****FRIDAY-SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8-9 AT 8:00 PM****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 2:00 PM****TIVOLI THEATRE**

CHATTANOOGA BALLET AND THE CHATTANOOGA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENT TCHAIKOVSKY'S BELOVED HOLIDAY CLAS-

SIC, "THE NUTCRACKER." WITH A CAST OF OVER 200 INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY'S PROFESSIONAL ENSEMBLE AND STUDENTS FROM BALLET SCHOOLS ACROSS THE TRI-STATE AREA, CHATTANOOGA BALLET'S "THE NUTCRACKER" IS ENJOYED BY OVER 8,000 FANS EACH SEASON, MAKING IT ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY'S MOST POPULAR PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS. FOR TICKETS AND INFO CALL CHATTANOOGA BALLET AT (423) 870-1518.

**"BORN IN US"****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 6:30 PM (EST)****MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA PRESENTS THIS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM CELEBRATING THE GIFT, FEATURING THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHOIR ALONG WITH ORCHESTRA, DRAMA, NARRATION AND BEAUTIFUL SCENERY. ADMISSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

**CHATTANOOGA GIRLS CHOIR WINTER CONCERT****FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 7:30 PM****TIVOLI THEATRE**

THE GIRLS CHOIR PRESENTS "WINTERSONG," A GALA HOLIDAY CONCERT. THE REPERTOIRE INCLUDES TRADITIONAL CAROLS, SECULAR HOLIDAY FAVORITES, AND MUSICAL TEXTS REFLECTING THE MIRACLES OF THE SEASON. TICKETS ARE \$11, AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE GIRLS CHOIR OFFICE; CALL (423) 629-6188.

**CSO POPS****SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 8:00 PM****TIVOLI THEATRE**

COME "HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS" WITH THE CSO, FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS **THE FOUR FRESHMEN**, WITH GUEST CONDUCTOR CHRIS CONFESSORE. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.CHATTANOOGASYMPHONY.ORG](http://WWW.CHATTANOOGASYMPHONY.ORG) AND AT THE CSO BOX OFFICE; CALL (423) 267-8583.

**GAC COUNTRY CHRISTMAS****MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 7:30 PM****TIVOLI THEATRE**

FEATURING **DEANA CARTER** (*STRAWBERRY WINE*), **JULIE ROBERTS** (*MEN & MASCARA*), **BLUE COUNTY** (*GOOD LITTLE GIRLS*), **STEVE AZAR** (*I DON'T HAVE TO BE ME 'TIL MONDAY*), AND **BUDDY JEWELL** (*SWEET SOUTHERN COMFORT*). ALL SEATS RESERVED AT \$25, PLUS CONVENIENCE FEES. TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW ONLINE AT [WWW.CHATTANOOGAONSTAGE.COM](http://WWW.CHATTANOOGAONSTAGE.COM) AND AT MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM BOX OFFICE. CHARGE BY PHONE (423) 642-TIXS.



**Dorothy (Dottie) Swasey  
Graphics and Technology Specialist  
Department of Neighborhood Services  
and Community Development**

Dorothy (Dottie) Swasey joined the staff of Neighborhood Services and Community Development last month. Originally from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, her family moved to Chattanooga when she was 12. Dottie received her Bachelor's degree in Fine Art from Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. She began her career in graphic design working in the printing and publishing industries, and remained in Florida for 25 years.

Five years ago, Dottie moved back to Chattanooga and went to work for Baldwin Art Group in Ringgold, Georgia. Originally hired as an artist, she later became their Marketing Coordinator. "I enjoy being able to go back and forth between painting and graphics – two related but very different worlds. Graphic design is very technical, painting is loose and free from constraints, but both are creative" says Dottie. Her position here will include projects such as the Common Ground newsletter, marketing and conference materials as well as website updates.

Dottie has a son, Ryan, age 20. Besides painting in her spare time, she enjoys dancing. She has taught west coast swing and two step, and is currently taking tango lessons.

**Neighborhood Talk**

Tuesday Mornings, 9:00-9:30am  
WNOO, 1260AM — Heritage Radio

**TUNE IN!!!!**

**Christmas Tree Recycling Instructions**

If you are wondering what to do with your live Christmas tree after the holidays, feel free to bring it to the City's Wood Recycling Center located at 3925 N Hawthorne behind Police Services Center off of Amnicola Highway. The hours of operation are Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., except 2nd Saturday of the month which is reserved for household hazardous waste. Drop off a tree, get a bag of mulch.



**7—Environmental Court (also to be held on the 14th)**

**Location:** Courts Building, Division II, 2nd Floor  
**600 Market Street**  
**Time:** 10:00 AM

**11—Regional Planning Agency Meeting**

**Location:** Hamilton County Courthouse, 4th Floor  
**625 Georgia Avenue**  
**Time:** 1:00 PM

**11—Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council Public Meeting**

**Location:** Downtown Chattanooga—Hamilton County Bicentennial Library  
**1001 Broad Street**  
**Time:** 6:00 PM

**12—Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC) - (Echo and Fox zones)**

**Location:** Parkridge Diagnostic Center  
**2205 McCallie Avenue**  
**Time:** 6:00 PM

**13—Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting**

**Location:** City Council Building  
**1000 Lindsay Street**  
**Time:** 10:00 PM

**13—Neighborhood Partners Projects Awards Ceremony**

**Location:** Warehouse Row, 3rd Floor Atrium  
**1110 Market Street,**  
**Time:** 2:00 PM

**19—Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC) Christmas Celebration**

**Location:** East Lake Senior Center  
**3208 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Time:** 6:00 PM

**22—Mayor Littlefield's Christmas Celebration**

**Location:** Bessie Smith Hall  
**200 E. M. L. King Blvd**  
**Time:** TBA

**25—Christmas Day  
City Offices Closed**

## Letter from the Administrator

Dear Neighbor,

I hope that this newsletter reaches you in festive holiday spirits. I am particularly excited about the fact that we will announce our awardees for the 2006-07 Neighborhood Partners Projects on December 13th. I would like to also introduce you to the latest addition to our staff, Dorothy Swasey, Graphics and Technology Specialist.

Please feel free to call our office at any time with questions or concerns. We appreciate your interest and involvement. Have a safe and festive holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

