

Huntingdon Primary ... A Value Plus School

This fall will mark the beginning of the third year of Huntingdon Primary's designation as a Value Plus School with the Tennessee Arts Commission. Huntingdon Primary School was selected in the fall of 2006 to be one of only six Tennessee schools to participate in the pilot program.

The Value Plus Schools program is a five-year arts education reform model focused on arts integration. Value Plus emphasizes learning through the arts by integrating performing, visual, literary and traditional arts forms into non-arts subjects such as math, science and language arts. Learning about the arts is also an important component of Value Plus as dance, visual art, theatre and music are taught as core stand-alone subjects.

Principal Leanne Bailey and the teachers of Huntingdon Primary School have been busy these past two school years with the staff of the Tennessee Arts Commission and teaching artists, learning how to integrate the arts into their curriculum. Monies to buy new art equipment and supplies are flowing into the school. Resident artists have been busy in the classrooms dancing through the solar system, making music and studying language arts and spelling with puppets. In addition, the children and teachers have been able to enjoy many performances at The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center with tickets bought and provided by the Tennessee Arts Commission with the assistance of the grant monies through the U.S. Department of Education.

In 2003, The Tennessee Arts Commission began evaluating its efforts in arts education and how it impacted learning in Tennessee classrooms. This led to a year-long, state-wide arts education needs assessment.

This assessment documented an overwhelming desire and need for public education reform in Tennessee using the arts to engage students, improve instruction, involve parents and build better schools. The Tennessee Arts Commission was awarded a grant in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Education to fund the Value Plus Schools programs. This year the program was honored to be named as the top arts integration program in the United States by the U.S. Department of Education. Hopefully, the Value Plus Schools program will become a model program for the entire United States.

The Arts (music, dance, theatre and visual art) are challenging subjects with rigorous state and national achievement standards just like math, science and language arts. Learning in the arts can be particularly beneficial for students from economically disadvantaged circumstances and those who are at risk of not succeeding in school. Research shows that every child learns differently. Some learn through what they see or hear; others through drawing or building with their hands. Some process information through writing or acting out

a story. The arts are the critical link to meeting the individual learning needs of each child.

Arts integration involves teachers of non-arts subjects working alongside arts specialists to create lesson plans that infuse the arts into core subjects such as math, science, language arts and social studies. In arts integrated schools, students score higher on achievement tests, improve their critical thinking skills, self-confidence, and learning retention increases.

Congratulations to Mrs. Bailey and her faculty for a job well done for the children of Huntingdon!

Newsletter Mailing List

If you know of friends or former residents of Huntingdon who would like to receive our newsletter, please send the name and address to Jeal Atwood by phone, mail, fax, or e-mail. See addresses and numbers below.

Mayor:Dale R. Kelley
 Vice-Mayor: Melissa Powell

Town Council:

Jeff Bailey	Gary Hatch	Tim Tucker
John Sanders	Clarence Norman	Nina Smothers

Director of Public Safety: Joe W. Parker
 Director of Public Works: Jerry G. Nolen
 Recorder/Director of Finance: Martha Taylor
 Administrative Assistant: Jeal Atwood
 Executive Director of The DixieLee Warren

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions related to the Huntingdon Newsletter, please contact Jeal Atwood at P.O. Box 668, Huntingdon, TN 38344 or (731) 986-2900 or huntingdoncityhall@charterinternet.com View this newsletter in full color at our website: www.huntingdontn.com

TOWN OF HUNTINGDON
 P. O. BOX 668
 HUNTINGDON, TN 38344



PRESORTED
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Huntingdon, TN
 38344
 PERMIT NO. 2



Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 2 Second Quarter April, May, June 2008

TENNESSEE'S MAYOR OF THE YEAR



TML MAYOR OF THE YEAR - Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley was named the Tommie Goodwin Mayor of the Year by the Tennessee Municipal League during their annual conference at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis. *Photo by Shirley Nanney, Carroll County News Leader.*

At the annual conference of the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) in June, Mayor Dale Kelley was surprised to be the recipient of the 2008 Tommie Goodwin Mayor of the Year Award. TML honors a Tennessee mayor each year with the award for outstanding public service, exemplary leadership, and devotion to the duties of office. Margaret Mahery, TML Executive Director, called to notify City Hall staff the first week in June, but warned that it was to be kept secret until the award presentation scheduled for June 24th. "Mrs. Mayor" (Carlene), Town Recorder Martha Taylor, Administrative Assistant Jeal Atwood, Vice Mayor Melissa Powell, Councilmembers Gary Hatch and Nina Smothers, and Carroll County News-Leader Editor, Shirley Nanney traveled to Memphis to attend the award ceremony. The hometown group entered the convention hall just as Mayor Kelley learned of the honor. He was visibly moved by the recognition and by the familiar faces coming to share in the surprise. He later commented, "I never would have dreamed that City Hall could keep a secret so well for almost a month!" Congratulations, Mayor Kelley, on a well-deserved honor!



SURPRISE GUESTS - Several members of the town council and administrative staff surprised Mayor Dale Kelley when they showed up at the Cook Convention Center Tuesday morning for the presentation of Tennessee Municipal League's Mayor of the Year award. From left are council member, Gary Hatch; administrative assistant, Jeal Atwood; Vice Mayor, Melissa Powell; town recorder, Martha Taylor; Kelley; his wife, Carlene Kelley; and council member, Nina Smothers. *Photo by Shirley Nanney, Carroll County News Leader.*

Reception Honoring Mayor Kelley

The Town of Huntingdon will host a reception in honor of Mayor Kelley for his recent Mayor of the Year Award from the Tennessee Municipal League. The reception will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 9, at The Dixie, just prior to the opening performance of The Dixie's fourth season. *Simply Sinatra*, starring Steve Lippia and his 16-piece band, will begin at 7:30 p.m., following the reception for the mayor. Please join us for this special reception and for the amazing talents of Steve Lippia. You'll believe you're experiencing Sinatra "live on stage!"

CARROLL COUNTY WATERSHED AUTHORITY PROPOSES PARTNERSHIPS

The Carroll County Watershed Authority has now reached the point of advertising for bids for the construction of the dam and the 1000-acre lake for Carroll County. Preliminary research and design plans have resulted in issuance of all permits required for construction. The invitation for bids has been published. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for July 28th at City Hall, and the bid opening will take place on August 12th.

At this stage of project development, the following summary points of the journey thus far may be helpful in defining why it is so important for Carroll County and the municipalities within Carroll County to support the lake project.

* The Watershed Authority was established in 1984. Though early attempts at permitting a lake on Beaver Creek were unsuccessful, the renewed efforts that began in 1997 resulted in the all-important 404 Permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in November 2002.

* All necessary permits have been acquired. All land for the lake and for the mitigation site has been purchased.

* The 1000-acre lake project is a national model like no other. Restoring two miles of Crooked Creek to its original channel as part of the wetlands mitigation plan has turned the heads of national environmentalists toward Carroll County.

* West Tennessee River Basin Authority is restoring the two miles of Crooked Creek to its original channel free of charge.

* TVA has modified the transmission line across the lake site at a cost of \$1.6 million.

* The ten-dollar wheel tax was supported by Carroll County voters in the August 2000 election and implemented in December 2001. \$1,405,079.67 has been collected thus far, and used for the research, design, and development of the lake.

* State and Federal funding for the project thus far is estimated at \$2.7 million.

* Approximate total spent to-date (including wheel tax collections and state and federal appropriations) is \$4.1 million.

* It takes years to realize the tangible benefits of a project of this magnitude. It is critical to the future of our county to have a vision and make decisions now that will develop the vision into reality. Our future

is defined by our decisions today.

* Failure to continue to support the project at this critical point will increase the overall cost and will delay the benefits to our county. Project development cost in 2000 was estimated at \$9.7 million. Today the overall projected cost is \$12,000,000. The numbers climb with every delay. We are wise to support the project and do all we can to avoid further delays and increases in project cost.

* The Town of Huntingdon has voted to borrow the money to continue the project, with the Carroll County Watershed Authority pledging future funding to the repayment of the debt. The loan through the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund is set up for 29 years. Projected retirement of the debt is 8-10 years.

* The Carroll County Commission voted to pledge future tax revenues based on growth and development in the planned growth region of the lake. Future growth revenues will be ear-marked for retirement of the debt incurred during construction of the 1000-acre lake.

* We have accomplished too much and progressed too far to stop the progress toward realization of this goal for our county.

* Economic benefits for Carroll County through tourism and future developments in business and real estate are waiting in the wings as the project progresses toward completion.

* Every municipality and all citizens across Carroll County will experience the economic benefits the lake will bring.

Knowing the future impact of the 1000-acre lake to all of Carroll County, the Carroll County Watershed Authority (CCWA) is proposing partnership efforts to insure the successful completion of the project. The CCWA proposed to the County Commission and the special school districts within the Lake Planned Growth Area to pledge future growth revenues to the retirement of the indebtedness incurred for the construction of the lake. The future growth revenues will only be pledged to the CCWA until the debt is retired. The term "future growth revenues" refers to the increase only in tax revenue resulting from new businesses and residential developments and increased property values in the planned growth area of the lake. When the debt for development is retired, all those increases in revenues will automatically be distributed as before.

PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED (CCWA, Town of Huntingdon & Carroll County)

Working with the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund a financial package has been developed to allow the Town of Huntingdon to borrow funds for the lake project. Repayment of the loan will be from funds received by the Watershed Authority from continuing wheel tax collections and future state and federal appropriations. An Interlocal Agreement between the Watershed Authority and the Town of Huntingdon will further secure the debt. The average interest rate through the Bond Fund is presently at 2.19%. The term of the loan can be as long as a twenty-nine years, but projected retirement of the debt is closer to 8-10 years. Mayor Kelley expects both the state and federal government to continue their support according to past appropriations or to increase future funding of the project. The Huntingdon Town Council voted to enter this partnership by becoming the vehicle for funding the lake development. The Carroll County Commission voted 17-1 to join the partnership effort by pledging future growth revenues toward retirement of the debt. Mayor Kelley advised the Town Council that studies estimate that the lake will generate \$22.5 million within the first ten years of operation, (fees, permits, sales tax, excise tax, etc.). This does not include any growth and development around the lake. He noted that the town is the vehicle for the funding. The Carroll County Watershed Authority has bonding authority up to \$12,000,000 and can borrow funds in the future, if necessary, to repay the loan.

16th ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for the fourth Saturday in September! The 16th Annual Huntingdon Heritage Festival is scheduled for September 27, 2008 at Sesquicentennial Park on Mustang Drive. The festival weekend is a great time for Huntingdon High School Reunions. Let us know if your class is planning a reunion in conjunction with the festival and we will include it in publicizing the scheduled events.

State Tournaments at Kelley Sports Complex

The Town of Huntingdon proudly hosted Little League competitions in June and July. Teams of 9-and-10-year-old players, along with enthusiastic fans, gathered from across Tennessee for the area, regional, and state tournaments held at Kelley Sports Complex. This represents realization of the intended goals for constructing the state-of-the-art sports complex in 1995. Those early goals were to provide quality facilities for Huntingdon ball teams during regular season schedules and to host state tournaments, which create a positive economic impact for our community.

Sanitation Rate Change

Waste Management will be increasing the Town's collection and disposal rate for sanitation fees by 4.6%. The increase is allowed under the present contract and is based upon the Consumer Price Index from May 2007 to May 2008. The 4.6% Consumer Price Index increase will change the residential rate from \$12.18 to \$12.74. Commercial hand pickups will increase from \$29.99 to \$31.37. In addition, Waste Management is charging the Town a fuel adjustment due to the cost of fuel. The fuel adjustment is determined from the Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy's Weekly Retail On Highway Diesel Prices for the Gulf Coast and is based on the average cost of fuel for the month. The fuel adjustment will be added to each sanitation bill in addition to the rate increase. Both adjustments were effective July 1st and will be reflected on the water bills received in August. The fuel adjustments rate will be adjusted each month based on the cost of fuel.

TITLE VI PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Huntingdon does not discriminate based on race, color, or national origin in federal or state sponsored programs, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d). If you need further information, please contact Martha Taylor at City Hall (731-986-2900).

FY'09 Budget Comments from the Mayor

With the turn of the calendar to July, a new fiscal year has arrived in the Town of Huntingdon. The 2009 budget is structured to meet our goals of providing quality services and improvements that make our community a better place to live and work.

Like many local, state & federal governments we're striving to balance a budget in a slow economy while facing increased costs for gasoline, electricity and natural gas, as well as price increases on necessary materials and services for day-to-day operation. Major expenditure requests are held to a minimum in the '09 budget. However, town employees will receive raises as they have in the past of \$.15 per hour across the board effective July 1 and an additional \$.15 per hour for each employee on their anniversary date of hire.

The '09 budget maintains the prior year property tax rate of \$1.29 while maintaining efforts for economic growth and development by supporting the Huntingdon Industrial Development Board and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. The combined budget for all funds is \$7.2 million, which includes the budgets for all departments, namely Police, Fire, Public Works, Finance and Administration, and The Dixie.

As mayor and town council it is our goal through Fiscal Year 2009 to continue building infrastructure and a secure foundation for the needs of future generations.

THE BIG READ

The Dixie is One of 208 Organizations Nationwide Selected to Receive the BIG READ GRANT from National Endowment for the Arts

Carroll County will read "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"

(HUNTINGDON; June 23, 2008) - The Dixie is excited to announce that it has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to host The Big Read in Carroll County. The Dixie is one of 208 libraries, municipalities, arts, culture, higher education, and science organizations to receive a grant to host The Big Read from September 2008-June 2009. The Big Read gives communities the opportunity to come together to read, discuss, and celebrate one of 23 selections from American and world literature. The Big Read in Carroll County will focus on "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain. Activities will take place September-December, 2008. A detailed schedule of events will be released from The Dixie soon.

The latest Big Read grantees represent 46 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To date, the NEA has given more than 500 grants to support local Big Read projects. "We are extremely excited about receiving The Big Read grant and the opportunities available to our community. In partnership with county-wide organizations and businesses including libraries, schools, churches, Bethel College, and others, we are looking forward to a great collaboration to promote reading," said Lee Warren, Executive Director of The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center.

"Everything the NEA does we do in partnership. I am delighted to announce our

208 new partners in The Big Read. Some are new to the program, some are returning, but all of them have answered the call to action to get our country reading again," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia.

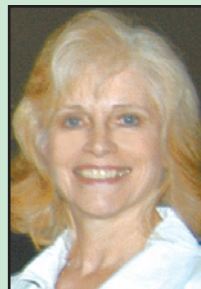
The selected organizations will receive Big Read grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 to promote and carry out community-based reading programs featuring activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions, lectures, movie screenings, and performing arts events. Participating communities also receive high-quality, free-of-charge educational materials to supplement each title, including Reader's, Teacher's, and Audio Guides.

"With this latest round of grants, I am proud to say that The Big Read has supported more than 500 public library partnerships," said Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the NEA's lead federal partner for The Big Read. "Through this program, public libraries continue to demonstrate their value in communities as centers of engagement, literacy, and lifelong learning. I am particularly delighted by the innovative public programming born out of library and museum collaborations."

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Support for The Big Read is provided by the WK. Kellogg Foundation. For more information about The Big Read please visit www.neabigread.org.

NEW MEMBER OF HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Nina Smothers accepted the appointment to the Town Council for the remaining term of office left by Jeanie Newman. The term will expire in November 2008, after which the position will be open for election.



Removal of Dumpster at Public Works Department

Due to liability issues, the Town of Huntingdon must remove the dumpster at the Public Works Department located off the By-Pass at 150 Dillahunty Lane. The dumpster will be removed on July 25, 2008. We apologize for any inconvenience; however, we can no longer accept the risk. Please call us at 731-986-2900 if we can be of assistance.

Fourth Season at The Dixie

Opening Night - August 9

The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center, Home of the Hal Holbrook Theatre is excited to announce tickets are now available for the upcoming 2008-2009 Performance Season! The 2008-2009 Performance Season marks the 4th performance season for the Center since its opening in November 2005.

The 2008-2009 Performance Season will officially open on Thursday, August 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. with "Simply Sinatra." Other shows slated for the 4th performance season include the following (*for more information about each show, please visit The Dixie's website at www.dixiepac.net or call The Dixie Box Office at 731-986-2100*):

OPENING NIGHT!
Reception for Tennessee's Mayor of the Year, Dale Kelley
Saturday, August 9, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Simply Sinatra starring Steve Lippia & 16 piece band
 Celebrating the opening of The Dixie's 4th Season!
Saturday, August 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Ticket prices: \$30/person

The Freddy Cole Quartet In Concert
Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Ticket prices: \$25/adult, \$20/senior (65 and over), \$20/child (12 and under)

The Fun on the Farm Jamboree
 Headliner: Marty Raybon
Saturday, August 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
Ticket prices: \$12/person

Musical Film Festival at The Dixie MARY POPPINS
Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke
Walt Disney Pictures; Directed by Robert Stevenson
Rated G; 140 minutes; 1964
Thursday, August 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Ticket prices: \$5/person at door; no advance tickets available

Mountain Dulcimer Concert
Saturday, August 23, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Ticket prices: \$15/person



www.dixiepac.net