



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, No. 3

Third Quarter

July • August • September 2007

Message from the Mayor . . .

FY'08 BUDGET COMMENTS

In our continuing efforts to enhance the quality of life in Huntingdon, we have structured the Fiscal Year 2008 budget to include several capital projects in various stages of progress. The Downtown Streetscape project, 87% funded through the TN Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant Program, will conclude by the end of December, 2007. Improvements to Edwards Park will begin in early fall, 2007, with 50% of the project cost provided through the TN Department of Environment and Conservation Local Parks & Recreation Fund. The expansion of Billy Cary Memorial Park will be complete by year's end, with funding from the Wright Charitable Trust. Town of Huntingdon employees have provided the labor for all three capital projects.

University of Tennessee faculty member, Matt Murray, associate director of UT's Center for Business and Economic Research and Graduate Director of Economics, recently updated city officials on the economic outlook for the state. He described a decline in economic activity in 2007 that will slightly improve in 2008. This decline impacted our 2007 budget with an approximate \$32,000 reduction in local sales tax revenues.

The decline in revenues, the anticipated implementation of a freeze on property taxes for qualifying senior citizens, state legislation to remove sales tax on food, and the escalating expenses related to

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15th Annual Heritage Festival "Banking & Birthdays"

"Banking & Birthdays" is the theme for the 2007 Heritage Festival. We will feature the histories of our financial institutions and celebrate three very significant birthdays, each spanning a full century or more.

100 years - Carroll Bank & Trust

(originally Bank of McLemoresville)

120 years - First Bank (originally Bank of Huntingdon)

185 years - Town of Huntingdon (established 1822)

The Heritage Ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Sesquicentennial Park on Mustang Drive in Huntingdon. Honorees this year are:

Ray McCormick - Outstanding Citizen

The Radford Family - Pioneer Family

Food and craft vendors will be on site throughout the day. Entertainment and activities for all ages will be scheduled for your enjoyment. Petting zoo, pony carousel, giant inflatables, and rides on the ISTEA Express will entertain the children. Make plans to bring your family and friends and help us celebrate "Banking & Birthdays" on Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

After the activities in the park, and after you've had a nice shower and supper, make plans to relax for the evening at The Dixie. A very special performance, chosen specifically to support our theme, will complete the festivities of the day. "Man - 1/Bank - 0" is a performance by Patrick Combs who tells an amazing-but-true comedic story of how he deposited a \$95,093.35 junk-mail check marked 'non-negotiable,' hoping to spread a little banking cheer to the bank tellers.

See you at the Festival, then

See you at The Dixie!

Every job is a self-portrait of the one who did it.

* * * * *

Autograph your work with excellence.

Carroll County Participates in The Big Read

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) recently announced that The Dixie Carter Performing Arts & Academic Center in Huntingdon is one of 117 organizations to receive grants to support The Big Read programs between September and December 2007. The Big Read, launched nationally in 2006 by the NEA, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Arts Midwest, encourages literary reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss a single book. The organizations selected to participate in The Big Read received grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 to promote and carry out community-based programs. The Big Read in Carroll County will take place throughout the months of September and October 2007.

All events are free and open to the public, but some require advance tickets. Please see the list of events and information below. If you have questions, please contact The Dixie Box Office at 731-986-2100, extension 221.

- The Big Read Kick-Off with Keynote Speaker, Dr. James Scruton @ The Dixie

Reception, book and reader's guide giveaway, introductory book discussion

Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion Session I @ First United Methodist Church - Huntingdon

Wednesday, September 19, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion @ Carroll County Library - Huntingdon

Thursday, September 20, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book and Readers Guide Giveaway at Huntingdon's Heritage Festival

Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Film showing of "To Kill a Mockingbird" - Rated PG @ The Dixie

A 1962 Academy Award winning film starring Gregory Peck and Robert Duvall

Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Free, advance tickets are now available at The Dixie's Box Office.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion Session II @ First United Methodist Church - Huntingdon

Wednesday, September 26, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion @ Carroll Bank - Huntingdon Branch

Friday, September 28, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion @ The Dixie

Tuesday, October 2, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion Session III @ First United Methodist Church - Huntingdon

Wednesday, October 3, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion @ McKenzie Memorial Library - McKenzie

Thursday, October 4, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion @ FirstBank - Huntingdon Branch

Thursday, October 4, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" - PERFORMANCE @ The Dixie

Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Free, advance tickets are now available at The Dixie Box Office.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion Session IV @ First United Methodist Church - Huntingdon

Wednesday, October 10, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion @ Carroll County Adult Learning Center - Huntingdon

Thursday, October 11, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Book Discussion @ PDC Arts & Eats - Huntingdon

Saturday, October 13, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Message from the Mayor . . .

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personnel, insurance, and gasoline were all factors in determining the 2007 property tax rate. Careful planning and wise use of our resources allowed us to maintain the same tax rate (\$1.29), i.e. no increase, for ten years. Although the state-certified rate was set this year at \$1.1694, we find it necessary to exceed the state-certified rate and set the 2007 property tax rate at the same rate as it has been since the last re-appraisal in 1997.

CAPITAL OUTLAY NOTE

Included in the FY'08 budget is a \$200,000 capital outlay note for the matching funds required for the Edwards Park grant, the lease/purchase of one patrol car, and an increase of approximately \$52,000 in the administrative revenues for the Finance Department's support of the Utility Fund. This reimbursement to the General Fund for administrative support has not been adjusted since 2002. Other revenue items remain much the same as prior years with total General Fund revenues for FY-08 being \$3,793,400.

EXPENDITURES

Expenditures include a \$.15 per hour raise for all employees effective July 1st plus an additional \$.15 per hour on their anniversary date-of-hire. We continue to provide health insurance for all full-time employees at no cost to the employee. The decrease in debt service expense allows allocations to other increased expenditures such as fuel costs, funding for the Industrial Development Board, and additional utility expenses.

In the FY'08 budget, we continue our efforts to provide excellent public safety by upgrading equipment to accommodate the installation of the CAD system at the Police Department by Carroll County 911 Agency. Fire Department modifications and improvements aimed at lowering the ISO rating will result in lower insurance premiums for every Huntingdon homeowner.

General Fund expenditures total \$3,768,075 making revenues over expenses \$25,325.00.

The Drug Fund budget supports the fight against drugs and the education of our young people through a partnership with the school system for D.A.R.E. training.

DIXIE CARTER PERFORMING ARTS AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT CENTER BUDGET

The Dixie Carter Performing Arts & Academic Enrichment Center budget provides for our third season of performances at The Dixie. Many grants and foundations require three years of operation to qualify for funds. Therefore, having passed this milestone, we anticipate increased funding for programs at The Dixie. Educational performance revenues are increased due to excellent participation from all schools in the surrounding area. Next season's scheduled performances are sold out with

a waiting list. The Nashville Symphony called and scheduled two free performances on October 5th for grades K-2. We are proud to provide Carroll County students with this great opportunity and this gift performance of approximately \$15,000. This is just another example of rewards realized because of Huntingdon Primary School's recognition as one of only six Value Plus Schools in Tennessee and the Governor's Award in the Arts presented to The Dixie last spring. The Dixie budget for FY-08 is \$699,500 with revenues over expenses in the amount of \$270.

UTILITY FUND BUDGET

The Utility Fund budget continues with upgrades of lines, fire hydrant improvements, and mapping equipment, all relating to the goal of lowering the ISO insurance rating. Capital purchases included a pick-up truck and a new trencher with a trailer. Total budgeted revenues are \$1,292,600 with expenses at \$1,290,000 which includes principal payments and funds set aside for reserves.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FUND

The Public Improvement Fund budget for recording the lease revenue and debt payment for the Post Office building totals \$134,700 with expenses exceeding revenues in the amount of \$3,550.

We are pleased to continue to provide services and a quality of life that we can enjoy as a community for Fiscal Year 2008.

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?

Town of Huntingdon water standards yield a higher-quality drinking water than most bottled water you can buy. Commercially bottled water is regulated by U.S. Food and Drug Administration standards. Huntingdon water is regulated by the much stricter standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A minimum consumption for water customers in Huntingdon is 2000 gallons at a cost of \$7.14. Considering that you can buy bottled water priced at 16 ounces for \$1.40, easy math and simple logic tell us that you're healthier and wealthier by drinking water from your Huntingdon tap!

Other facts related to water and sewer expenses that you may not know include the costs listed below:

1. One water meter box - \$21
2. One 20-ft. section of 6-inch PVC pipe - \$57
3. One 20-ft. section of 10-inch PVC pipe - \$152
4. One manhole frame and cover - \$200
5. One fire hydrant - \$1,250
6. One sewage pumping station - \$50,000

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), 12740 Lexington Street, P. O. Box 668, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

A Loyal Fan

On June 15, 2007, Mr. Lindsey drove all the way up from Mississippi to attend the performance of the Chuck Wagon Gang at The Dixie. This was his 45th time to see the CWG perform. "Loyal" may be a bit too mild to describe this fan!



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:	
	Jeanie Newman	Jeff Bailey Gary Hatch
	Tim Tucker	John Sanders Clarence Norman
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 Dixie	Lee 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
Website: www.huntingdontn.com*

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