



Free Health Screenings Available at 21st Annual Minority Health Fair Aug. 6

Page 4



After Roe v. Wade Overturned, How to Find Affordable Birth Control

Page 8



Richard West, 3 Others Named to 2022 Tennessee Senior Olympics Hall of Fame

Page 11

Chattanooga News Chronicle

A Progressive Voice in the African American Community

Week of July 28, 2022

Volume XXXII, Issue XXVI

Chattanooga, TN

Complimentary

Commissioner Warren Mackey Says \$2 Million Westside Renovation 'Will Preserve a Small Slice of Chattanooga'



Over 2,000 people who live in Chattanooga's Westside will be impacted by a \$2 million renovation. "Changes are coming for the better, and nobody will be displaced," Hamilton County Commissioner Dr. Warren Mackey said.



At the heart of the Westside Evolves \$2 million renovation plan, the historic James A. Henry School, 1200 Grove St., is reimagined as a community "hub" for social services, arts, education and training opportunities.

By Camm Ashford

Hamilton County Commissioners last week approved \$2 million in American Rescue Plan funds for West-

side Evolves, a collaborative neighborhood planning initiative led by the Chattanooga Housing Authority (CHA).

The plan--whose investments may eventually total nearly a billion dollars--is expected to take from eight to 10 years and will revitalize 130 acres

in downtown Chattanooga. The ARP funds will go toward phase one, which

See Mackey Page 4

Mary Walker Foundation's Camp REACH Ends for Summer 2022



Students, Instructors, Guest Speakers together during one of many activities held during the Mary Walker Foundation's work-based, Camp REACH program.

By Camm Ashford and Yolanda Putman

The Mary Walker Historical and Educational Foundation's Christian and work-based Camp REACH ended last Thursday at a ceremony held at Hope City Church, 7 North Tuxedo Ave.

REACH is an acronym for Respect, Earn, Achieve, Citizenship, and Hard Work.

The enrichment summer camp offered nearly 40 rising 9th-12th graders instruction in leadership, basic life and work skills, vocational skills (house painting), music and art, journalism, and transportation logistics through a partnership with Network Transport in East Brainerd.

Students were paid a weekly stipend every week for six weeks if they successfully completed all assignments.

"You are witnessing greatness here, and it's a blessing to be a part of these young people's lives," Camp REACH Executive Director Lurone "Coach" Jennings told the 100 or so

people attending the noon event.

"You all may have been hearing a lot lately about youth gun violence. Well, this is how we prevent that kind of involvement. We give our children positive, encouraging things to do. We reward them and recognize their gifts and talents to help them see that you don't have to go down the wrong road to be successful and to earn money and those kinds of things, and to take people along with you. So this is our reaction and answer."

Student Timothy Rice, who attended Camp REACH last summer as well as this year, offered his fellow campers' words of encouragement.

"During the last six weeks, we learned a lot," he said. "Not just about reading and writing, but about life. Now comes the big question of how do we apply all that we've learned. That's a question you must answer for yourself. But I believe in you, and I know that you all are capable. Each and every one of you has a chance to be special and to do something great in life. So go on and be great, and put God first."

Also on program were Jamison Malone who led the Lord's Prayer and Aaron Tarver who provided the Bible verse Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."

Journalist instructor Yolanda Putman noted that on Day One of the camp, 52% of the students participating in the Lexia Reading program performed at a foundational level, 45% at an intermediate level and only 3% at an advanced level. However, by the end of camp, students reading at an intermediate level had risen from 45% to 68%, and those reading at an advanced level had nearly tripled from 3% to 11%.

Students receiving Chattanooga Legends Awards: Willie Kitchens Music Award, James Myers; Reggie White Award, Timothy Rice; Mary Walker Award, Ariel Kelly (Camp REACH Spelling Bee Winner); John P. Franklin Sr. Top Earner Award, Amare Starling; The Rev. J. Lloyd Edwards Jr. Hard Work Award, Aaron Tarver; and the John L. Edwards III Citizenship Award, Jamison Malone.

See REACH Page 3 & 4

Chattanooga Remembers Retired Police Sgt. Walter Maples, 93



By Camm Ashford

A lying-in state ceremony for retired Chattanooga Police Sergeant Walter Maples Jr. was held Wednesday, July 27, from 12:30-5 p.m. at Taylor Funeral Home, 3417 Wilcox Blvd.

On July 28, a memorial service was held, noon-1:30 p.m., at Orchard Knob Missionary Baptist Church, 1734 East 3rd St. Burial to follow at Chattanooga National Cemetery, 1200 Bailey Ave.

Sgt. Maples, 93, died after being involved in a two-vehicle crash on Shallowford Road last Wednesday, July 20, a little after 6:30 p.m.

Napoleon "Doughnut" Williams, the first African American in the Chattanooga Police Department's history to achieve the rank of detective, said he worked with Mr. Maples in 1964 when Maples "was over the midnight jail as sergeant."

Mr. Williams said he and Sgt. Maples were assigned to the same walking beat surrounding East and West 9th streets in the early '60s. And, over the years, they often patrolled together in Police Car 12 which served Alton Park and Orchard Knob.

"Maples lived in Alton Park, so he

See Maples Page 4

Attention Readers

Print Schedule: Aug. 11, 25 | Sept. 8, 22

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INDEX

Commentary	2	Health/National	8
Local/Regional	3-4	General News	9
Ads	5	Business Mall	10
Churches	6-7	General News	11-12