



Duane Sherrill photo

Alderman Gayla Hendrix examines a photo and then hands it Alderman Josh Miller for inspection. The photo was provided during the city board meeting by an irritated citizen who said she is tired of living by neighbors who will not maintain their property. The board of mayor and aldermen has pledged to vigorously enforce the city's unsightly property ordinance. The city sent out notices this past week and may issue citations to violators.

City taking closer look at unsightly properties

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Residents who junk up their property can expect to hear a knock on their door soon as the city board of mayor and aldermen has ordered a crackdown on unsightly properties in Smithville.

"We just aren't enforcing the ordinance," declared Alderman Gayla Hendrix as she look at a picture provided by a local resident who came before the board, stating she was tired of her neighbors not maintaining their yard.

The city has an ordinance regarding unkempt property but aldermen agreed during their recent meeting that it was not being vigorously enforced.

"People are fed up with it," said Alderman Danny Washer. "More people need to speak out."

Under the city statute, home owners can be fined \$50 plus court costs for violating the city's unsightly property ordinance. Court costs can run over \$100, making it an expensive citation.

The board decided to issue two warnings on a pair of properties in the city against which two neighbors complained to the council at their last meeting. The property owners will have 10 days to clean up their land once the advisory is issued. Police officers were directed to personally knock on the doors and serve the papers this past week.

"If it's not cleaned up then we can go in there, clean it up and bill them," said Mayor Jimmy Poss of what the ordinance allows if the property owners thumb their noses at the warning letter.

Hendrix insisted that the city also issue citations and level fines against violators, noting residents who violate the law hurt property values for everyone around them by failing to cut their grass, clean up trash and maintain their structures.

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MAYOR JIMMY POSS

Soggy celebration



Duane Sherrill photos

Olivia Winters and Kellie Williams huddle underneath an umbrella as rain continues to fall during commencement ceremonies at DeKalb County High School Friday evening. A total of 177 students were awarded diplomas during the event which was delayed over an hour due to a severe thunderstorm.

Graduation delayed by weather



Hannah Evans proudly displays her diploma after she walked across the stage at DeKalb High School graduation Friday evening.

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Mother Nature could only delay the Class of 2018 for about an hour Friday night as commencement ceremonies took place in the rain soaked stadium despite a steady drizzle and an occasional flash of lightning.

A total of 177 DeKalb County High School seniors were given the right hand of fellowship and a high school diploma by Director of Schools Patrick Cripps and Principal Randy Jennings. The event went on minus the high school chorus and band which evacuated the field when a severe thunderstorm struck campus, dumping torrential rain

and hail. The weather event, which was being closely monitored on radar by school officials, delayed the ceremony and sent many well-dressed attendees running for cover as sheets of rain soaked anyone who remained out in the storm.

"Over the course of four years we have made friends, bonds and memories that will last a life time," declared Senior Class President Tyree Cripps in his opening remarks, noting many of the Class of 2018 would be going on to college while others opt to immediately enter the work force. "I wish each and every one of you good luck as you go forward to achieve your goals."

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Heavy rains blamed for pre-graduation wreck



Jim Beshearse photo

Four people were transported to the hospital after a three-vehicle crash on West Broad Street Friday evening during a torrential rain storm.

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

The same torrential rains that delayed commencement ceremonies at DeKalb High School Friday evening are being blamed for a West Broad Street crash which left several people, including students, injured.

The 17-year-old female driver who triggered the wreck told police she never saw the other vehicle coming when she pulled her 2005 Chevy Cavalier from Anthony Avenue, onto West Broad. Her name and the names of the three other teens involved in the crash have not been released by police because they are juveniles. The teen driver noted that the heavy rain contributed to her not being able to see oncoming traffic as she pulled onto the main rain. Meanwhile, just up the highway, graduation

ceremonies had been placed in a holding pattern as a severe thunderstorm hit the campus, dumping rain and hail onto the stadium where commencement was to be held.

According to the accident report released by the Smithville Police Department, the wreck happened when the Chevy Cavalier entered the path of an oncoming east-bound 2001 Ford F-150 driven by Ricky Dowell, 59, of Alexandria. Dowell said he swerved trying to avoid impact by still hit the Cavalier and then struck a westbound Ford FX4 driven by a 17-year-old male.

Both Dowell and his wife, Shelia Dowell were taken to the St. Thomas DeKalb Hospital as was the teen driver of the Cavalier and her 17-year-old passenger. The two teens in the FX4 that was collected during the chain reaction crash escaped serious injury.