

Owen's Market gets to keep its beer permit

BY **LISA HOBBS**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Owens Market in the Blues Hill community will be allowed to keep its beer permit.

Local resident John Travis Owens-Whitehead petitioned the county Beer Board to revoke the store's beer permit because the application did not list both owners of the business. Members met Monday to consider the request. After a 40-minute session, Owens Market was allowed to keep its beer permit.

The beer permit was issued in April 2017 to Linda White for Owens Market located at 4764 West Green Hill Road.

"This board was given false information when Mrs. White filled out her permit and did not list her husband (Charles White) as an owner of the business," said Owens-Whitehead, who owned the business from 2006 to 2016 with his spouse, Tim Owens. Tim passed away in August 2016.

A beer permit application requires the listing of all owners with at least a 5 percent ownership. Background checks are required on those persons because under state law.

Owens-Whitehead said White included her husband on all paperwork, including a business permit the couple obtained from Warren County Clerk Lesa Scott in March 2017, but she omitted him on the application for a beer permit.

Due to what Owens-Whitehead referred to as "deception on her part," he requested the board revoke the beer permit and ban the couple from reapplying for 10 years, as allowed by Tennessee law.

Mrs. White denied the allegation.

"I didn't think it made a difference until I was made aware of the postings he's placing on his official Owens Market (Facebook) site," she said. "I pulled my license down and that's when I saw it. I've tried to make it right."

Prior to the board meeting, White applied for a new business license for "Owens Market" in her name only.

In attendance was Mildred Owens McAllister, the mother of Tim Owens and the sister of Charles White, who stated she owns the building and she gave permission for her brother to reopen the store under the name Owens Market in memory of her son and her husband Raven Owens, who owned and operated Owens Package



Owens Market, located at 4765 West Green Hill Road, has been allowed to keep its beer permit.

Store at that location prior to it becoming Owens Market.

Owens-Whitehead presented proof he held the EIN for Owens Market at 4765 West Green Hill Road until the end of 2017.

"I never sold or gave any person or company the right to use my company name," said Owens-

Whitehead. "I asked (Lesa) Scott to please revoke or suspend the business license."

That request was denied.

Beer Board chair Teddy Boyd stated the beer permit was issued to Linda White and just because she's married doesn't

mean her husband is 50 percent owner.

"As far as the 5 percent, I don't know who owned what," said Boyd. "You think marriage is 50/50 but you don't know the half of it. I don't know who owns 95 percent or 5 percent. I have no proof that says it's 50/50."

Commissioner Charles Morgan says he's not willing to get involved in a family dispute and in the middle of what is most likely a civil lawsuit over the name Owens Market.

Committee members voted unanimously to allow Mrs. White to keep her beer permit.

Full-time janitor rejected

BY **LISA HOBBS**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Warren County Health Department rejected a governmental recommendation to hire an employee for its janitorial services as a cost-saving measure.

The county Financial Management Committee met in April to consider a bid from Darron's Do-All Commercial Cleaning Service for \$2,426 a month to clean the Health Department. Members decided to hold off on awarding that bid.

Commissioner Terry Bell

suggested the department consider hiring an employee since the service is over \$29,000 a year.

"Are we not almost to the point where we can hire a janitor to put out there? It's going to be almost \$30,000 a year," said Bell.

Commissioners compared that expense to a full-time janitor for Warren County Administrative Offices. That employee makes \$8.50 an hour - approximately \$17,680 a year, not including benefits.

Warren County Health Department director Andrea Fox was not in

attendance, so the measure was tabled.

When the committee met this month to reconsider the bid, it came with an email request from Fox to accept it.

"I received an email from Andrea and she's recommending we keep janitorial as a contract and not an employee," said Finance Department director Linda Hillis.

Committee members voted 6-1 in favor of accepting the bid from Darron's Do-All Commercial Cleaning Service. Bell voted against it.



Dr. Wally Bigbee, pictured by Barren Fork River access from River Trail East, will have the trail named in his honor.

River Trails receive new name in honor of Bigbee

BY **LISA HOBBS**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

River Trail North and River Trail East will be renamed The Bigbee Trail in honor of Dr. Wally Bigbee.

The city Parks and Recreation Committee made that decision one month after accepting the trails as part of its parks system.

Bigbee was visibly moved by the announcement and subsequent unanimous vote by committee members Ben Newman, Steve Harvey and Kate Alsbrook.

"I thank you," said Bigbee. "I'm greatly honored. It's also an honor to be part of a city that has progressive leadership that's looking out to see where the city can be made better. There is

potential all around us."

Newman stated, "Thanks for all your help. We couldn't do this without you. It takes a lot of work and time."

Bigbee said the credit should be going to all the volunteers who worked to construct the trails.

"I couldn't have done it without the volunteers. Approximately 525 volunteer hours got it to where it is now," said Bigbee.

The trail, which stretches along Barren Fork River and connects Ramsey Park to Rocket Park, was a coordinated effort between the Greenway Council, Friends of the Greenway, and the city of McMinnville. Bigbee, president of the Greenway Council, supervised work sessions with community volunteers, was the liai-

son keeping the city informed about services needed, worked with the media to advertise work sessions, and petitioned the city to adopt the trails.

During the last work session held May 5, there were 10 volunteer workers who met at Rocket Park to make improvements on River Trail North. Bigbee says teams and individuals worked tirelessly on that day.

Individuals interested in the expansion of walking trails are urged to call Bigbee at 473-5968 to become a volunteer.

McMinnville Parks and Recreation director Scott McCord has applied for a \$28,500 tourism grant from the state that will fund the purchase of signage, as well as other items, for the trails and parks associated with them.

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Include graduates name and parent(s) name only with photo. No grandparents or siblings names please.

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