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City OKs new subdivision

Plan gains preliminary approval

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

Preliminary approval has been given for a large subdivision to be built in the city limits.

The McMinnville Planning Commission met Tuesday to consider subdividing 12 acres into 14 plots for the construction of 14 houses.

Donald and Latesha Hillis requested the land, which is located off Shelbyville Road between Wilson Lane and Myers Lane, be

divided.

"We purchased this land because no infrastructure will be required," said Donald. "I'm utilizing the existing streets on all three sides of the property. All the driveways will connect to Myers Lane and Wilson Lane."

Per information verbally provided by Hillis at the meeting, all lots will be three-quarters of an acre or larger and at least 300 feet deep. The



HILLIS

homes will be mostly brick exteriors and have detached garages. The development will be comparable to the adjacent property, which is King's Ridge Subdivision. Price range could be \$275,000 and up. Construction will be done two houses at a time with no exact date known for subdivision completion.

There will be restrictions placed on properties prospective buyers

will have to agree to, says Hillis.

"I have not done the restrictions yet, but they will be equal to or greater than any of the developments down the street on Wilson Lane," he said. "It is our desire to make a nice subdivision. It's our desire to make smart houses, if you are familiar with that term. It's nothing like anyone has done around here. It will have more technology, like you see in the bigger cities."

Several property owners were in attendance. The main concern was storm water runoff after the subdivision is complete.

According to Community Development Department director Nolan Ming, construction will

include greater restrictions by federal and state laws to help prevent storm water issues.

Neighbor Annie Moffitt expressed concern for Myers Lane not being wide enough for the increased traffic.

Ming stated, "That's a question for Public Works to answer, I guess. I can look into it just to be sure."

Planning Commission members unanimously approved the preliminary plat as requested, contingent on Hillis meeting any and all requirements by the city's Community Development Department. The measure will be revisited for a final plat review. If approved, Hillis can proceed with his subdivision.

Saved by the belt



Lonnie and Betty Slatton were left dangling in this pickup by their seatbelts for about an hour in March. "We were sore as the dickens, but without seatbelts, we would not be here today," said Betty.

Slattons rewarded for buckling up

BY **LACY GARRISON**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Back in March, a two-vehicle wreck on Sparta Highway was reported by Lisa Hobbs. In the photo, emergency crews worked to extricate a White County couple trapped after their pickup flipped onto its side.

Lonnie Slatton, 81, driver, and his wife Betty, 82, were transported to Saint Thomas River Park for evaluation.

Since the accident, both Lonnie and Betty have healed from their injuries and they have been presented with a Saved by the Belt Award from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office. The Slattons were treated to lunch at The Landing in Rock Island by Captain R.C. Christian of the Highway Patrol Cookeville District.

"There is no doubt in my mind seatbelts saved the lives of the Slattons," said Capt. Christian. "They are a very

dear couple and have been together for several years and I'm totally convinced they would not be here today if they were not properly restrained. I am grateful to be able to spend this moment with them."

Betty recalled leaving church that Sunday to head to McMinnville for lunch before the accident occurred.

"Our seatbelts kept us from flying out of the truck and we hung there for a miserable hour while they worked to get us out," said Betty. "The truck was smoking and we were afraid it was going to catch on fire with us trapped inside. It was very scary."

Although the Slattons sustained no broken bones, Betty cracked her pelvis and both she and Lonnie suffered from minor cuts and bruised ribs.

"We were sore as the dickens, but without seatbelts, we would not be here today," said Betty. "The stress of the accident is still there with us and Lonnie was sorry to lose his little red pickup, but we're thankful."



Lonnie and Betty Slatton show the certificates they were awarded from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office.



Election Day is Thursday

BY **JAMES CLARK**
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The marathon will be over on Thursday.

For candidates who have been campaigning for nearly a year – some as far back as last year's Warren County A&L Fair – the finish line must look as appealing as a funnel cake.

Thursday is Election Day and 20 precincts will be open around the county from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All Warren County government races will be decided Thursday, while the day also serves as the primary for state and federal seats.

Early voting was steady with 5,792 ballots cast during the 14-day period that ended Saturday. That averages out to 413 votes per day. Those voting on Election Day must go to their precinct. Voting does not take place in the Early Voting Room on Election Day.

Early voting has accounted for more than half the total votes in recent elections. In the May primaries, 57 percent of all votes were cast during early voting.

The most hotly contested race set to be decided Thursday is Warren County Sheriff where six candidates are vying for the job. Four candidates are on the ballot for County Executive, although only three actively campaigned.

Also set to be decided Thursday are races for Trustee, Register of Deeds and Circuit Court Clerk. The offices of Road Superintendent and County Clerk do not face opposition.

County Commission seats in 10 of the county's 12 districts are up for grabs. Two districts, the 6th and 7th, have already been decided. There are also two contested School Board seats.

For those choosing to vote in the state primaries, the race for Tennessee Governor tops the list. Both Tennessee House seats that serve Warren County are also on the ballot.

In federal races, there is a U.S. Senate seat on the ballot, along with the 4th District Congressional seat that serves Warren County.

Flashing lights coming next year

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

Tennessee Department of Transportation has announced more details pertaining to the installation of flashing lights after another fatality at Sparta Highway and Rock Island Road.

According to TDOT Deputy Commissioner/ Chief Engineer Paul Degges, it will be next year before the intersection has flashing lights.

Bid opening is scheduled for Oct. 5, 2018, according to Degges.

A second set of lights is also included in the project for Sparta Highway's intersection with Old

Rock Island Road that's closest to McMinnville. The two have been let to contract under a single project.

"It will take about six weeks from the bid opening for all of the contracts to get signed and a work order to be given to the contractor," said Degges.



Lisa Hobbs photo

There are no flashing lights, but there is this banner. Another fatality on Highway 70S has the state urging motorists to be "Safe on Seventy" with a banner placed at Sparta Highway and Rock Island Road.

Continued on **3A**

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