

Home sweet home



Lacy Garrison photo
Leslie Caldwell and children Alec, 14, Sabastien, 12, and Leeloo Smith, 8, stand in front of their new home on King Street. With a 12-day building plan and over 100 volunteers, Habitat for Humanity was able to celebrate its 31st home dedication Monday.

George to retire after 46 years of service

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

Carol George has worked in the Circuit Court Clerk's office since 1972. That's the year her father, Buck Vinson, was elected Circuit Court Clerk.

On Tuesday, George was honored during a retirement ceremony at Warren County Courthouse. She was recognized for her 46 years of service. Also at the center of attention were Mary Ralph with 40 years of experience and retiring Circuit Court Clerk Bernie Morris, who opted not to seek re-election after 24 years.

Together, the three ladies have 110 years of experience.

"It's going to be a shocker when I don't have to come to work anymore," said George, who is currently the bookkeeper but has served in nearly every capacity in that office.

George says she enjoys trail riding on horseback and also likes to ride wagons pulled by mules. Her daughter, Angela Cossey, is principal at Woodland School in Woodbury and she plans to be more active there.

"I'll be volunteering more at her school," said George.

Bernie Morris says she plans to stay on board to help new clerk Candi



A retirement ceremony was held Tuesday for three ladies retiring from the Circuit Court Clerk's office. Pictured, from left, are Bernie Morris, Carol George and Mary Ralph.

Cantrell learn the ropes. Cantrell is scheduled to start Sept. 1.

"I'm going to try to help the new clerk in any way I can," said Morris. "My door is open and I want there to be a smooth transition."

Ralph missed much of last year battling health issues and says she feels much better now. She says she wants to spend more time with her family and grandchildren now that she's retirement age.

Mayor

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Nashville was able to overstep traditional qualifying deadlines and get its mayoral race on the ballot earlier this year in May. However, that was due to a 2007 metro government charter amendment -- and even then it took a ruling from the Tennessee Supreme Court to get the race on the ballot.

As for possibly modifying McMinnville's charter to get the race on the November ballot, Pirtle said that is not possible due to time restrictions.

He said the city charter cannot be modified by resolution or ordinance.

It would take a charter amendment.

Charter amendments require a two-thirds vote of approval from the city board. The two-thirds vote must occur twice. Then the matter still must be approved by public referendum, which would be Nov. 6 if the other two requirements were met.

The city of McMinnville hasn't approved its budget for 2018-19.

First reading of the final budget is set for Aug. 14, with second reading scheduled for Aug. 28.

While he hasn't said, speculation is Haley will wait until after the budget is passed Aug. 28 to

resign as city mayor.

In accordance with city charter, Vice Mayor Ben Newman will assume Haley's role as mayor upon his resignation. He would serve as mayor until the next election cycle in 2020. The city board would then appoint Newman's replacement as alderman.

The last time the city board appointed someone to serve was also due to Haley in 2012. Haley successfully ran for mayor in the middle of his term as alderman. When elected mayor, it left a void for his alderman post which the board voted unanimously to give to Ken Smith.

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