



SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

February 1998

www.franklin-stfb.org

Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection, and Promotion of Civil War Sites in Williamson County, Tennessee

Community Center Approval Proceeds

The County plan to build a new Community Center adjacent to the Carter House is proceeding smoothly through the County Commission approval process. Among other business at its regular meeting January 29, 1998, the Property Committee considered and approved the Intent to Fund Resolution of \$3.28 for the new Community Center on the County property just north of the Carter House.

County Executive Robert Ring reviewed the list of potential occupants for the new building - the Boys and Girls Club are certain "renters" due to the success and expansion of its programs. County staff now crowded into the administrative complex might "overflow" into the new building. Ms. Hattie Baines of the Community Child Care Center asked that their program be considered for the new building. County Attorney Rick Buerger added that the Child Care Center, now licensed for 87 children, could serve up to 200 children if they moved into the new facility adjacent to the Carter House.

Board members of Save The Franklin Battlefield, Inc and the Heritage Foundation attended the meeting. The format allowed for public comment and both organizations were invited to speak. Both groups endorsed the approval of the Intent to Fund Resolution and the construction of the new Community Center.

In prepared remarks, STFB Board member Joe Smyth reviewed the fighting and actions that occurred on the County property in question during the Battle of Franklin November 30, 1864. He then requested that the Resolution be flexible on the

location of the Center, and that the Commissioners consider trading the existing site for some other, perhaps larger, site in the immediate neighborhood.

Heritage Foundation Executive Director Mary Pearce asked that any new building fit in architecturally; and encouraged the Commissioners to explore the possibility of swapping the County plot for a larger State of Tennessee property near the old Franklin High football field.

Since the all of the requests and comments had been documented in the meeting minutes, the Commissioners decided that a rewording of the Resolution was unnecessary - the Resolution passed.

At its regular monthly meeting February 3, 1998, the full Commission considered all Intent to Fund Resolutions that had been approved previously by various Commission Committees - the new Community center was one of them. STFB and Heritage Foundation board members attended, but the meeting format did not allow public comment.

During the discussion, three commissioners asked about the impact on the Carter House. Commissioner Mary Mills asked the Commission to investigate the possibility of trading the existing property for a larger plot. In response, County Executive Robert Ring agreed that such an option should be considered and explored.

The Intent to Fund Resolution for the Community Center was then approved for inclusion in the Bond

(Continued on page 4)

The News In Review by Peter Schofield

Highlights from print media articles of interest to the battlefield community

Franklin historic zoning plan advances - The Tennessean -

1/15/98 - Franklin city officials have taken more steps to expand downtown Franklin's historic zoning district with a plan that adds most of 11 blocks in and around the public square. The new district will include 96 lots and large pieces of property owned by First United Methodist and Christ Community churches. Also drawn into the historic district were a number of private homes. Historic preservation zoning, which "overlays" other types such as commercial and residential has been law for seven years in Downtown Franklin. Currently, property owners who have acquired a building permit in a historic zone must submit their plans for structural changes to the historic review board, in addition to the planning department. The makeup of the historic board includes an architect, a member of the planning commission, local preservation professional and a resident of any neighborhood that is under discussion.

Conference Center plans on target - The Tennessean 1/21/98 -

Despite delays caused by weather and site conditions, preparations remain on target for the \$48 million Cool Springs Conference Center, Marriott Hotel and two office buildings, officials of an Atlanta developer said yesterday. The \$12 million conference center, jointly owned by the City of Franklin and Williamson County is "right on track." The City and County will own 24% of the total site. The 127,000-square-foot, 10-to-12-story hotel with some 300 rooms will be funded privately while the conference center will be funded by tax-exempt general obligation bonds.

Future African-American museum gets some TLC -

The Tennessean - 2/2/98 - Volunteers from the Boys and Girls club of Franklin were treated to sunshine and flawless skies as they got outside on a recent Saturday to lend a hand in cleaning up the historic McLemore house. 'Built by a former slave named Harvey McLemore in the late 1800s, the house is now slated to become the area's only black heritage museum. The historic structure in the Mt. Hope area of Franklin was purchased last year by Franklin's African American Heritage Society and the Heritage Foundation. Unlike more formal museums, as a "house museum" the McLemore House will tell the story of everyday life in Hard Bargain, a comfortable black neighborhood named after the real estate deal that created it. Once one of the nicer homes in the neighborhood, the house has become dilapidated through old age, lack of money and neglect, something the young volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club are changing. African-American History month began on February 1.

Freedom Middle students get a glimpse of Civil War life -

The Tennessean - 2/3/98 - In addition to learning facts and dates about the Civil War, students at Freedom Middle School were able to get an idea of how life was during that era. "We had talked about the battles, the blood and gore and the strategies in class," said history teacher Charlette Hall. "This gave them a chance to see what people

who were not in the military were doing. Life did go on for those that were left behind." One area was dedicated to the daily life back home. Another was dedicated to the games and music at the time. Yet another area had artifacts so that the students could get a hands-on look. The general session told students about the life of a soldier. A re-enactor showed the uniforms of both the Union and Confederate soldier. He erected a tent to demonstrate the sleeping conditions of the soldiers. The re-enactor also did firearms demonstrations. Not only history classes were involved in the project. The students also studied the era in their science, reading and math classes.

Downtown's new hand at the helm - The Tennessean - 2/3/98 -

Nancy Williams' blue eyes open wide and a slow smile lights her face as she sums up her new role as executive director of the Downtown Franklin Association: "It's my dream job." After all, she asks, how many people get a chance to work close to home, in a town they love, promoting an organization they believe in? It's nearly too good to be true. "To tell the truth, I was surprised the DFA board offered me the job at all," she half-jokes, "but I'm very excited they chose me, and I'm anxious to get started." Formerly a reporter for papers in Murfreesboro, Nashville and Franklin, she is winding up nearly five years with the Tennessee Health Care Association in Nashville, where she is director of corporate communications. Her skills as a writer, spokesman and administrator, as well as her keen appreciation for the unique style of non-profit

(Continued on page 4)

SAVE THE FRANKLIN BATTLEFIELD

Robert Ring
County Executive
1320 West Main Street
Franklin, TN 37064

James Anglin
County Commissioner 2
5774 Bending Chestnut
Franklin, TN 37064

Ken Brison
County Commissioner 1
P.O. Box 118
Fairview, TN 37062

Glen Casada
County Commissioner 4
5056 Wilson Pike
Arrington, TN 37014

Bert Chalfant
County Commissioner 7
116 Wilson Pike, Suite 100
Brentwood, TN 37027

Arlene Cooke
County Commissioner 6
1090 Wilshire Way
Brentwood, TN 37027

Lewis Green
County Commissioner 5
1016 Waller Road
Brentwood, TN 37027

John Hancock
County Commissioner 12
2208 Bowman Road
Franklin, TN 37064

Judith Hayes
County Commissioner 3
1775 Pope's Chapel
Thompson Station, TN 37179

John Hedge
County Commissioner 4
1503 Brent Pointe 111
Brentwood, TN 37027

Rodney Hopper
County Commissioner 12
555 Ridgestone
Franklin, TN 37064

Joe Hughes
County Commissioner 1
7441 Les Hughes Road
Fairview, TN 37062

Clyde Lynch
County Commissioner 3
6435 Covington-Eudailey Road
College Grove, TN 37046

Newt McCord
County Commissioner 5
7263 Nolensville Road
Nolensville, TN 37135

David McKenzie
County Commissioner 8
2042 Hunterwood Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027

Mary Mills
County Commissioner 11
1777 West Main Street
Franklin, TN 37064

William Mott
County Commissioner 7
5118 Dorchester Circle
Brentwood, TN 37027

Houston Naron
County Commissioner 10
100 Hamlet Drive
Franklin, TN 37064

Clyde Pewitt
County Commissioner 2
1984 Old Hillsboro Road
Franklin, TN 37064

Bob Poe
County Commissioner 11
109 3rd Avenue South #311
Franklin, TN 37064

Garland Teague
County Commissioner 6
16092 Gorden Petty Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027

Stan Tyson
County Commissioner 9
410 Cotton Lane
Franklin, TN 37069

Stephen Wherley
County Commissioner 8
204 Brittain Court
Brentwood, TN 37027

Nancy Williamson
County Commissioner 9
106 Kiln Hill Court
Franklin, TN 37064

Roger Anderson
County Commissioner 10
815 Hillsboro Road
Franklin, TN 37064

Jerry Sharber
Mayor, City of Franklin
City Hall Mall
Franklin, TN 37064



Letters from Franklin



"I look back across the tide of twenty fateful years, recalling the then light heart and thoughtless words of youthful ardor as we moved into the fight. I see now through a mist of unbidden tears the returning brave, who, in the face of that leaden doom, with dauntless tread passed "over the perilous edge of battle to the harvest home of death", swept in the twinkling of an eye from our sight forever into the shoreless gulf. I wonder now, as I sit here and recall that terrible day, how we could have been so thoughtless and unconcerned. As we formed in line to move upon the foe, youthful eyes flashed fire and downey cheeks glowed with the rapture of the coming fight. Ah, as we looked upon our loved ones then for the last time, as brave John Weller says, knowing that death lurked just over the hill, why did we not clasp one another in a long embrace?"

(From: "Fearful Franklin, Some reminiscences of the bloodiest battle in history" by C.E. Merrill, a writer for "The Nashville World" Newspaper in 1884)

NEXT BOARD MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 9

The next monthly STFB Board meeting will be held on March 9 at the Williamson County Library meeting room at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are open to all members, prospective members and everyone interested in protecting and preserving the Civil War Sites in Williamson County. We hope to see you there!

(Continued from page 1)

package that will be considered by the full County Commission at its 7:00 PM March 3, 1998 meeting at the County Administrative Complex Auditorium.

To contact your Commissioners and to encourage them to consider a land swap for the County plot next to the Carter House, see the directory of all County Commissioners in this newsletter.

Sam Huffman

(Continued from page 2)

associations, are unusual - and a good fit for her new job, she says. (Ed note: Hearty congratulations and sincere best wishes, Nancy!)

The history of a people - The Tennessean - 2/6/98 -
There is an

urgency about Thelma Battle's efforts to document the history of African Americans in Williamson County. The local historian has been collecting old photographs from African American families in Williamson County for several years. "I try to get to families before they throw them out," Battle said. Sometimes she is not fast enough. But during the past year Battle has collected more than 300 images of African American families, from the first family in Thompson's Station to the first black business owner on Main Street in Franklin. A display of the photographs sits at the Williamson County Public Library at Five Points in downtown Franklin through the end of this month in honor of Black History month. Battle says she hopes there never comes a time when she can no longer find old photos or information about African Americans who settled Williamson County. That has her working as fast as she can. "There is such an urgency about it because older members are dying out and nobody bothered to talk to them or record how they came here. There is no reason now that Williamson County black people should not be included (in genealogy records), not just as slaves, but reflections of their lives," she said.

STFB PLANS FIRST DRIVING TOUR

Plans are underway for the STFB driving tours for 1998. The first tour is planned for Sunday, March 29 from 2:00 - 5:00. The plan is for the tour to include the Battle of Brentwood, Battle of Thompson's Station, and the First Battle of Franklin. Watch for more details in your March newsletter!



Descendant's Reunion Oct 9 - 11, 1998

In response to numerous requests, The Carter House will sponsor another Battle of Franklin Descendant's Reunion this fall. The last such reunion, and the first since 1914, was held in October 1996 with nearly 200 guests from 28 states.

As the schedule of events for the reunion develops, more information will be available on the Carter House web site at carter-house.org and in direct mailings from the Carter House.



Save The Franklin Battlefield Membership/Renewal/Order Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____

Mail To: Save The Franklin Battlefield~P.O. Box 851~Franklin, TN 37065-0851
Membership is annual, donations are tax deductible.

| Quantity | Description Annual Membership (Choose One) | Price Each | Total |
|----------|--|-------------|-------|
| | -Individual | \$12.00 | |
| | -Family | \$15.00 | |
| | -Corporate | \$25.00 | |
| | "Retreat from Pulaski to Nashville" Book Reprint | \$20.00 | |
| | 1989 Commemorative Belt Buckle | \$12.00 | |
| | 1989 Commemorative Paperweight | \$12.00 | |
| | 1997 Self-Guided Driving Tour Map | \$2.00 | |
| | Save The Franklin Battlefield Bumpersticker | \$1.50 | |
| | | Order Total | |