

Lack of Christmas decorations is a problem for Irvine council

by CATHY DAWES
The Estill County Tribune

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Irvine city council quickly turned into a heated discussion among council members and the mayor on the Monday night before Thanksgiving over the lack of Christmas decorations in downtown.

City Clerk Robin Powell said that she had called the fire department on Monday or Tuesday of the previous week to inform them that new lights had been dropped off at city hall by the Estill Action Group. She said that she had spoken to someone there and told them that Lightup Rivertown was that Saturday and hopefully the fire department would have time to get the lights hung sometime during the week.

Fire Chief Tony Murphy said that he had no idea that the bulbs were there waiting to be hung up, and that he was in charge of the fire department. From now on, if anything needed to be done then he was the one to talk to. He added that he didn't want the fire department taking the blame for the lights not being hung up

when he was not even aware of the situation.

"Where are the wreaths and banners and why have they not been put up?" questioned Councilman Tim Burkhart.

"I was told that we didn't have them anymore," replied Councilman Tobo Bryant.

"We've had eleven months to prepare for this and I have to say that the city is looking pretty ragged right now. It would cost at least \$10,000 to replace what we had," said Burkhart.

"You listen to me and listen real good! I was going to buy some stuff but didn't have no d--- money to buy it with!" said Mayor W.J. Noland.

The council asked if municipal aid funds could be used to purchase new decorations and determined that they could not be used for decorations.

Police Chief Brad Smith informed the council that both of the surplus cruisers had been transferred over to the county jail. He also reported that the Rockhouse Bar & Grill had received their alcohol license and

would be open for business in the near future.

Smith reported that he had received several applications for the position for a non-certified police officer. He said that is was a very long process going through the applications but it was definitely needed considering the city had lost two officers to other counties in the past couple of months. He said the officers are leaving for other jobs because the other counties pay at least \$4 more per hour.

"I make a motion to have more competitive wages, it's money well spent," said Councilman Bryant.

Councilwoman Bush seconded the motion and under the advisement of City Attorney Rodney Davis the council agreed to amend the pay scale ordinance to reflect the changes.

Mayor Noland questioned the council about the ordinance pertaining to game rooms within the city. He said that several people had approached him about the possibility of opening a game room in the city but under the old ordinance that it's not permitted.

Councilman Burkhart said that during the time the council wrote the ordinance that they were having a lot of problems in the city. He said he couldn't recall how many years ago that it had been since the ordinance was voted on but he did know that the city hall building on Broadway was where they had voted on it at.

Mayor Noland reiterated the fact that people were asking and that Davis has a video game in his restaurant on Main Street.

Burkhart said that they could revisit the ordinance and possibly make changes to it.

"Don't revisit it on my account because that will be unplugged and put into the garage as soon as I leave this building tonight," said Davis.

Councilman Bryant said that Billy Arthur was instrumental in writing the ordinance and he would know more about it than anyone. Arthur was unable to attend the meeting but the council agreed to look at the old ordinance and possibly amend it in the future.



William Short, Boy Scout from Troop 89, lit twelve white candles on the sides, and a red, white and blue candle in the middle, at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Tyler Banks.

Banks is honored during Eagle Scout ceremony

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Banks said they started on the cemetery last November and had it completed in February of this year with the help of Troop 89.

Banks has graduated from Estill County High School and is learning welding technology at BCTC. He is the son of DeWayne and Allyson Banks.

Banks now plans to give back to Scouting, as he has received from it. He said that is the idea behind the Eagle Scout award, so he will now be assisting with the troop.

He showed his willingness to support the younger Scouts on Sunday as they were included in the program. The Scouts had completed the requirements for their merit badges earlier, but Banks asked that the other Scouts receive their merit badges during Sunday's ceremony. Those badges were presented by Troop 89's Scoutmaster, Dr. James Hill.

Banks is also active in Civil War re-enactments. He dresses in a war uniform and gives talks on the war to small groups.

Irvine native will sign new book on Sun., "The Copperhead Club"

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In his senior year when he was agonizing over his ability to attend college, Miss Jones went to his house and told him that she had arranged for him to go to UK. With the help of others at UK he held down three jobs which included firing a furnace and serving as a busboy in a downtown cafeteria. He also had a part-time job in the Lexington Herald Sports Department thanks to Earl Cox who worked there and who was also from Irvine. The cafeteria job was extremely important as that is where he met Ruth, who would later become his wife.

He fondly remembers his many outstanding teachers at Irvine High School. One of those was Joe Ohr who taught an obscure class called economics. Bill says that he learned so many basics from that course and it was extremely important to him when he started writing about economics in 1970. However, his journalistic beginnings started when he was in the 7th and 8th grades. There he wrote stories about playground basketball games and posted them on the bulletin board. He covered his first high school basketball game for the Herald in 1956. It was the University of Kentucky's laboratory school, University High. Adolph Rupp's son, Herky was on the team. Bill recalls that as


he took a seat at a table reserved for the press, even though he was the only press there, he turned around and right behind him was Coach Rupp and his wife. He said that it was like seeing God to a young reporter.

Bill says that because journalism can take a person to so many places it is difficult to single out the most memorable event that he covered. However, some of the most impressionable are Happy Chandler's defeat in 1963 by Ned Breathitt, a civil rights march in Louisiana in 1969, the trial covering the murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi, the 1968 Democratic convention, the antiwar marches in Washington, Henry Kissinger's announcement of the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Beirut guarded by 15 year old kids carrying submachine guns, the courage of Anwar Sadat in Egypt, the despair of the Shah of Iran just before the revolution, the realization that the ordinary Chinese people did not hate Americans while covering the opening up of China in Beijing in 1978, and the tears he shed when he saw the worst of the slums in Haiti, the WWII Veterans visiting the Normandy Cemetery where their friends were buried. Bill also recalls the task of presenting Pete Maravich with his first

AP all-American certificate while he was in charge of the Baton Rouge AP bureau and covering the impeachment of President Clinton. Bill retired from the Chicago Tribune in 2008. With the Tribune, he served as economics correspondent, White House correspondent, assistant managing editor for financial news in Chicago, senior writer and Chief Washington correspondent. He has received numerous journalistic award including winner of the Loeb, John Hancock, University of Awards, runner up for the Pulitzer Prize; the Merriman Smith Award for presidential coverage; runner up in the Raymond Clapper and Nover Awards; and named as one of the top 100 financial journalists of the 20th century. He was elected in to the Kentucky

Journalism Hall of Fame in 1998, and in 2001 was elected to the Estill County Hall of Honor. He is a member of the Gridiron Club where he was President in 2007. He has authored two books, Work Revolution (1980) and Volcher, Portrait of a Money Man (1987).

William Robert Neikirk has demonstrated extraordinary success in national and world journalism circles, but he retains his love for his family school and hometown. He expresses with pride his appreciation for all of the people of Irvine and Estill County who have been so important in his extraordinary achievements. He states, "My greatest wish would be that my mom and dad were still living and could read my book The Copperhead Club."



Points on poinsettia

- Use a large, roomy shopping bag when transporting poinsettias.
- Place them in indirect sunlight for at least six hours each day. Water only when the soil is dry to the touch.
- Do not place them near cold drafts or high heat.
- Fertilize after the blooming season with an all-purpose fertilizer.

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Annual Hospice Remembrance Tree Ceremony Set For Dec. 6

Hospice Care Plus' annual Remembrance Tree ceremony is set for Sunday, December 6, 2:00 p.m., at Richmond Mall inside the former JC Penney's.

The event is a long-standing tradition for Hospice Care Plus and the community, bringing hundreds together for more than 20 years.

The Remembrance Tree ceremony gives the community a chance to remember loved ones during the holiday season by placing a personalized memorial ornament on a tree.

After an opening prayer and holiday music, the memorial list of names is read. Guests place their personalized ornament on the Remembrance Tree when they hear their loved one's name. If no one is present to place the ornament on the tree, a hospice staff member will do so.

Refreshments are served following the ceremony.

The Remembrance Tree will remain on display throughout the holiday season at the Compassionate Care Center on Isaacs Lane

in Richmond. Guests who wish to take their personalized ornament home with them may do so immediately following the ceremony or anytime during the tree's display period.

To request an ornament, contact Hospice at hospice@hospicecp.org, 859-986-1500, or 1-800-806-5492. Donations for ornaments can also be made online at Hospice's website: hospicecareplus.org. There is no charge for the ornaments or for the ceremony, but the organization does suggest a donation—of any size—when requesting the personalized ornament. Proceeds from the event fund all of the programs offered by Hospice Care Plus.

Hospice Care Plus is a non-profit organization serving Estill, Jackson, Lee, Madison, Owsley and Rockcastle counties. Services include hospice care, palliative care, bereavement outreach, and hospice inpatient care at the Compassionate Care Center. All services are provided regardless of ability to pay.

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December 16, 2015

Contact the Center at 606-723-7323 for more information.

The Estill County Tribune

Estill County	Adj. Counties	Kentucky	Out of State
1 year \$16.04	1 year \$26.42	1 year \$30.19	1 year \$32.00
Sales Tax 0.96	Sales Tax 1.58	Sales Tax 1.81	Sales Tax 0.00
Total \$17.00	Total \$28.00	Total \$32.00	Total \$32.00

**Seniors, 65 and over, may deduct \$2.50 from above totals

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