



## KTnB Open Line: Nov. 1, 2013 Edition

Greetings,

In an effort to keep you updated on KTnB activities, I would like to share with you the following information. Have a great weekend!

### Outreach Efforts

#### **Day In Court**

On Monday, October 21st, I had the opportunity to spend the day observing our KTnB Advisory Board Chairman, the Honorable Judge Larry Potter as he presided over the Shelby County Environmental Court. The entire docket consisted of health and fire cases. I plan to return to Judge Potter's courtroom in the near future to hear more cases and learn more about the various environmental issues affecting the Memphis and Shelby county area. To learn more about the Memphis and Shelby County Environmental Court visit: [www.shelbycountyttn.gov](http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov). Many thanks to Judge Potter and his entire staff for hosting me!



#### **Germantown Neighborhood Services (More than just a name)**

On Monday, October 28th, I met with Joe Nunes, Neighborhood Services Manager for the City of Germantown. Mr. Nunes is spearheading a project to educate fourth grade students on the importance of recycling. Beginning in Spring 2014, the City of Germantown plans to offer the program in all their elementary schools. During our meeting, I provided an overview of the KAB/KTnB affiliate network and shared some of the books and curriculums used by our affiliates in their educational outreach efforts. Mr. Nunes shared with me some of the policies and programs Germantown Neighborhood Services use to promote and preserve the safety and beauty of Germantown's neighborhoods. Congratulations to Mr. Nunes and the City of Germantown on this exciting new project!

#### **Tennessee Teen Institute (TTI) 2014**

On Tuesday, October 29th, I contacted Kristi Towns, the state director for the Tennessee Teen Institute, to see if she would be interested in collaborating our efforts. TTI is a five-day camp that offers various formats of training including workshops, seminars, and activities that help young people grow to be strong, healthy individuals who will have the skills needed to make a difference in the community in which they live. The mission of Tennessee Teen Institute is to unlock the potential of the youth of Tennessee to lead by example and to take a proactive role in bringing about positive changes. TTI challenges young people to unlock their potential by giving them the skills, knowledge, and attitudes they need to make healthy choices, build positive relationships, and contribute to their schools and community in a meaningful way. In June 2014, TTI is preparing to host nearly 450 high school and college students on the campus of Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. In the next few weeks, I will be meeting with Ms. Towns and her staff to

discuss how KTnB can assist and participate in TTI 2014. I will keep you posted as we move forward. To learn more about Tennessee Teen Institute visit [www.tnteeninstitute.net](http://www.tnteeninstitute.net).

### **Introductions with International Paper (IP)**

Last month, I attended a local leadership luncheon where John Faraci, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for International Paper served as the keynote speaker. After the luncheon, I had the opportunity to meet and talk with Patty Neuhoff, Director of Communications and President of the IP Foundation. I was excited to learn that Patty is not only professionally interested in sustainability issues but personally interested in community beautification projects and understands the need for litter prevention education and litter pick-up initiatives. This past Wednesday, October 30th, Patty graciously hosted an introductory meeting where she allowed me to share the history and overview of KTnB and our affiliate network with members of her team who work on sustainability and community initiatives. In return, I learned some very interesting and impressive information about the history of International Paper and their vision to be one of the best and most respected companies in the world. Visit their website at <http://www.internationalpaper.com/US/EN/Company/Sustainability/SustainabilityReport.html> to learn more about their commitment to sustainability.

## [Visits With Affiliates](#)

### **Keep Tipton County Beautiful (KTCB)**

On Wednesday, October 30th, I had the pleasure of serving as KTCB Director, Ruth Wallace's guest at the PHG Energy Celebration of Covington's new waste-to-energy system. The innovative technology converts material the city was previously landfilling into electricity used to operate Covington's water treatment facility. PHG and the City of Covington hosted a luncheon and tour of the state-of-the-art gasification facility to share with the citizens how they are saving tax dollars and caring for the environment at the same time. A big thank you to Ruth for inviting me to be her guest! To learn more about the facility visit [www.phgenergy.com](http://www.phgenergy.com).

### **A Scare On The Square**

While in Covington, Keep Tipton County Beautiful Director, Ruth Wallace took me up to the town square to show me how KTCB partnered with the Covington - Tipton County Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a contest for scarecrows made out of recyclable/reusable materials. Citizens of Covington and Tipton County voted on the most popular scarecrow. I enjoyed seeing all the creative ideas so, I thought I would share a few of the pictures with all of you in case you want to borrow the idea and host a contest next year. You can view the photos on the KTnB Facebook page by clicking [HERE](#)!



## [Meet KTnB Advisory Board Member: Cindi Smith-Walters](#)

**Cindi Smith-Walters**, PhD is a full professor of biology at Middle Tennessee State University and in addition to teaching she co-directs the Center for Environmental Education there. She has worked as a classroom teacher, an education consultant for a natural resources state agency, and directed the nationally award winning CENTS program while at the Tennessee State Department of Education. She has been at MTSU for 20 years and she has begun working in the last year with PhD candidates in the new Math and Science Education program.

Smith-Walters has served as the President of the Tennessee Academy of Science and in 2011 was recognized as a TAS Fellow. She has received the Tennessee Environmental Education Association's Distinguished Service Award and was honored by the Tennessee Science Teachers Association with the first Teaching Award for Excellence in Higher Education.

With degrees in biology, curriculum and instruction, and environmental science, Dr. Smith-Walters has a variety of interests. She is widely published with a number of book chapters,

journal and magazine articles, and online publications. Her interests are in environmental education, non-formal science education, science misconceptions, non-fiction science tradebooks for children, pre and inservice teacher education, and professional development for teachers.

Cindi has also served on a number of state and national committees and has been on the KTnB Advisory Committee for several terms. She enjoys working with fellow committee members and the opportunity to be a 'listening ear' and a 'guiding voice' in making Tennessee a more beautiful place to live. Lastly, Smith-Walters continues to be impressed with the wealth of talent and energy across the state when it comes to those who work together under the KTnB umbrella and is proud to be part of the team.



## Contact

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