

## November update on concurrent activities and organizations in Knoxville

1. Community website: the firm of T8 is progressing with the "**Discover Knoxville**" web design and creation. A logo has been selected by the Web Design Team for presentation to the **Chamber Board, EDC**, and the **Knoxville City Council** for their approval. It is anticipated that this, or a similar, logo, will be part of the overall presentation for the Chamber, EDC and the City of Knoxville in the future. The *Discover Knoxville* website will be a single URL with navigation through the site depending on user expressed needs and will be highly interactive.

2. **Arts Alliance**: This organization was formed in early 2006 to enrich our community by making *art* of everyday life, and has branched into a range of activities with about 37 active members. Started by a gathering of persons in the visual and performing arts, Arts Alliance now provides continuing support to the summer **Farmers' Market** in downtown Knoxville and recently concluded its first **Autumn Studio Tour** which consisted of a self-guided tour with 22 artist presentations throughout Marion County. Plans are underway to expand exposure of the **Red Rock Retro Radio Theater (RRRT)**, which presents 'live' radio and radio-only shows, as well as the **Marion County Writers' Workshop**, which provides an ongoing venue for poets and writers in our community. The Arts Alliance also coordinates the placement of visual art in downtown vacant storefronts as well as various youth art events. The Alliance is currently looking for a permanent facility for a gallery, studios and a performance center.

3. **SOS**: Save Our Stadium, began as a grass-roots initiative surrounding proposed changes to the WPA era *Ken Locke Stadium* and continues to raise money toward restoration of this unique facility, now on the National Registry of Historic Places. **SOS** works actively with **Knoxville Community Schools Alumni Organization** and will likely continue to work together on other endeavors, such as a new performing arts center, when their efforts to restore the stadium are completed.

4. **The City of Knoxville**: As explained at the recent VA Task Force meeting, the **Historic Preservation Commission** is studying the possibility of forming two *Cultural / Entertainment Districts*, separately identifying the Downtown area from the Highway 14 Corridor (from the Stadium to the Raceway). In the meantime, the City's *Comprehensive Plan* needs to be updated and work will probably begin in earnest following a February meeting of the City Council for goal setting. The City has renewed (it had lapsed) its **SSMID Committee**, now restructured under the *Chamber Board* with likely intentions on storefront improvements. **The Streetscape Committee** was formed this summer in response to the *Iowa Architectural Foundation* recommendation for a revitalization of the Downtown 'Square' and surrounding area. A major obstacle for Downtown remains the need for sanitary sewer reconstruction along Main Street -an item not currently in the *City's Capital Improvement Plan*.