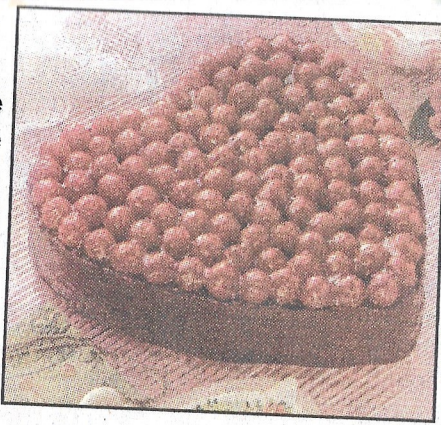


Food —

Chocolate
Chocolate
Raspberry Cake is
one of several
delectable desserts
to tempt your
sweetheart with.

— PAGE 1B



OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

The Oak Ridger

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Dever OKs Boeing plan

BY PAUL PARSON
OAK RIDGER STAFF

An environmental assessment conveying a 180-acre flood plain needed for a proposed residential development has been OK'd.

Leah Dever, manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Operations office, signed the document this morning — keeping a promise she made during a public meeting Tuesday night.

The meeting, concerning the use of land on the Department of Energy's 34,424-acre Oak Ridge

Reservation, primarily focused on the proposed development of a residential community on 1,200 acres of property owned by the Boeing Co. and the transfer of ownership for a nearby 180-acre flood plain. The Boeing property, located across the Clinch River from the Oak Ridge K-25 site, is currently under consideration for sale to Oak Ridge Land Co. for the residential project.

Support for the residential development was voiced Tuesday night by Oak Ridge Mayor Jerry

Kuhaida; Bob Craig, chairman of the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce board of directors; Gary Coxon, who was representing the East Tennessee Economic Council; and Tom Beehan, chairman of the Oak Ridge Housing Task Force.

"Oak Ridge needs families, and families need homes," Beehan said. That sentiment was echoed by Karen Bridgeman, who heads up the housing initiative for the Chamber of Commerce.

Coxon pointed out that numer-

ous studies have indicated the need for new "land products" in Oak Ridge.

Also speaking in favor of the project were representatives for Anderson County Executive Rex Lynch; Roane County Executive Ken Yager; U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp, R-3rd District; and Alex Fischer, state commissioner of economic and community development.

However, not all of the almost 300 people counted who attended the meeting in the Cumberland

SEE DEVER, PAGE 5A



Sam Brocato, Ch...
during a public m...
Oak Ridge Reser...

Up, up and away



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BY BEV

DEVER:

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Room of Oak Ridge Mall were in agreement with the proposed development.

Barbara Walton, an Oak Ridge resident who also happens to be on the Citizens' Advisory Panel of the Oak Ridge Reservation Local Oversight Committee, said she supports modernization and economic development, but added biologically significant areas also need addressing.

"We have some species here that don't exist anywhere else," Walton said. "We need to make sure the west-end development doesn't include any of those."

Walton also pointed out that the Citizens' Advisory Panel has recommended the flood plain be returned to the Tennessee Valley Authority, which at one time owned it.

Scott Davis, director of the Tennessee chapter of The Nature Conservancy, added that the Oak Ridge Reservation's biological diversity rivals that of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

"Please protect this land," pleaded Sherry Farver, an Oak Ridge resident. "This land you can't replace. There are plenty of homes here."

Virginia Dale, a 16-year Oak Ridge resident, was one of several people who questioned the need for new housing when existing

structures are not being sold. Dale said she's had a lot of Oak Ridge land up for sale for five years and not had "one single offer" on it.

Concerns were also voiced by representatives from the Tennessee Conservation League, Friends of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the city of Oak Ridge's Environmental Quality Advisory Board and several Oak Ridge residents.

Also at the meeting, Dever said she is putting an environmental assessment of Parcel ED-3 on hold. The 450-acre parcel, which sits near K-25, is being considered for development into a business and light industrial park.

SEARCH:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

the TBI at some point," he said.

Police are still interviewing people and have not yet established a motive, Moehl said.

"We still feel like more than one person was involved and we are still investigating that possibility," he said. "We suspect that drugs may have been involved."

Oliver, 28, has an extensive criminal history and was released from prison after being paroled last March.

Tennessee Department of Correction records indicate that he

was sent to prison after being convicted of aggravated robbery, aggravated assault, possession of cocaine and felony escape. He served about eight years of a 13-year sentence. City police records indicate that his crimes involved the use of guns and knives.

Oliver's sentence expired just 10 days before Freeman's murder and he is charged with first-degree murder.

Lt. Mike Uher said Oliver should be considered armed and dangerous. He asks anyone with any information about the murder of Freeman or the whereabouts of Oliver to call the Police Department at 425-4399.

HOUSING:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

residents, Boyer said, "The change is dramatic. It's a very small piece of land that is being cleaned up, with streetlights and infrastructure, and it will make a difference economically and socially."

Availability of affordable housing has been a hot topic on many fronts in Oak Ridge.

According to economist Don Zuchelli, a subcontractor affiliated with the City Center revitalization effort, the city retains only about 10 percent of the employees hired here. West Knoxville and Farragut

are the city's largest competitors for potential new residents.

To redirect the trend of losing residents to Knoxville, Boyer said people in the housing industry say that more stores are needed to attract residents, but retailers say more housing is needed to attract shoppers.

"They're joined at the hip no matter how you look at them," council member Will Minter said.

Mayor Jerry Kuhaida related having met a man at McGhee Tyson Airport who saw an Oak Ridge logo on an item he was carrying and questioned him about moving to the city. A woman from Farragut overheard the conversation and quickly pulled the man

away.

"That is the type of (attitude) we're fighting," Kuhaida said.

Minter said the two things heard most often from people outside the region is that city taxes are too high and that "it's a little hot there," referring to nuclear contamination.

Council member Teresa Harvey, emphasizing the need for Oak Ridge to market itself, said, "We didn't realize (housing and shopping were) a part of the core until recently, but getting housing and retail here is done by different methods (than industrial recruitment)."

The workshop was held in the Central Services Complex.

RSCC:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

University in Clarksville.

The regents also hired Shirley Raines as president of the University of Memphis.

Raines and Hoppe are the first women in the Board of Regents system, and among the first in the state, to head a state-supported, four-year university. Margaret Perry was the state's first woman to mark such an achievement when she was chancellor of the University of Tennessee at Martin from 1987 to 1998.

"This is history," Regent Maxine Smith of Memphis said after the nominations were affirmed.

Hoppe served as president of Roane State Community College before joining Austin Peay as interim president last February. She re

have confidence in my ability to lead Austin Peay at this time in its history," Hoppe is quoted in a Regents' news release as saying. "This is an exciting time to be here, since we will soon begin the celebration of the university's 75th anniversary."

Raines comes to the University of Memphis from the University of Kentucky, where she served as vice chancellor for academic services and dean of the College of Education. She is a native of Bells, 16 miles northwest of Jackson.

She will replace Lane Rawlins, who left last May to become president of Washington State University. Manning praised Raines' enthusiasm, fund-raising abilities and success in working with the Legislature.

"We had three excellent finalists, and this was not an easy decision"

ott pushes for McCullough to be TVA chairman

NANCY ZUCKERBROD

but Bush alone can do it