



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Talks Storm Warning, Mental Health Court, and More

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— During his Weekly Update that will post later today, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs talks about the winter storm warning, the Knox County Mental Health Court, and a dedication to remember fallen Knox County Sheriff's Deputy Tucker Blakely.

As of now, the forecast calls for three inches to six inches of snow, beginning Friday (Jan. 10) around 10 a.m. to noon. and then into Saturday morning.

“Obviously, this storm will cause closures, so please check the news for those, keeping in mind that Knox County Libraries and Senior Centers follow the same snow plan, so if schools are closed, our Libraries and Senior Centers will follow suit,” Mayor Jacobs says.

So far, county road crew members have spread brine on county roadways to help with snow removal – spraying more than 95,000 gallons of brine on about 750 miles of road. They'll also come in early Friday morning to prepare to scrape the roads. You can Google “Knox County Snow Removal Map” to see our snow treatment plan and list of priorities.

“Please be careful out there and minimize travel as much as you can,” Mayor Jacobs says. “Also, keep our road crews in your prayers. They work really hard in sometimes dangerous conditions and do an excellent job for us.”

The Mayor also says the state officially certified the Knox County Mental Health Court, noting that it met all the requirements and standards for certification under the Tennessee Certified Mental Health Court Program. These courts serve as an alternative to incarceration by addressing the underlying issues that led to an individual's arrest through judicially supervised treatment plans developed by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. There are 300 mental health courts nationwide, but the concept is relatively new to Tennessee.

“A big thank you to Criminal Court Clerk Mike Hammond, who has been the driving force behind getting our mental health court up and running,” Mayor Jacobs adds.

Additionally, Mayor Jacobs says: “It was bittersweet to dedicate the bridge over Beaver Creek near Powell High School in memory of fallen Knox County Sheriff's Officer Tucker Blakely. Tucker was killed in the line of duty in October 2023. We hope that this memorial will keep him alive in the minds of our citizens for years to come.”

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