

## EAST RIDGE HIGHLIGHTS AND HEADLINES

(This East Ridge information was compiled from the research and sharing of information by many individuals, as well as newspaper clippings. Please keep in mind that these are only highlights, and anyone desiring more detailed information will find it on file in the East Ridge City Library.)

East Ridge and the surrounding country will always be known as the former lands of the Cherokee Indians. When the whites first met the Cherokees, the Indians owned 40,000 square miles of territory which is now a part of Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The first written history of Chattanooga began in 1540, when the explorer, Hernando DeSoto, marched through, or near, what is now Chattanooga, demanding from the Cherokees food for his men and animals. More than a century later, France claimed title to all lands drained by the Tennessee River, which was then known as the Cherokee, and later the Hogohegee River.

In June **1796**, George Washington signed the act of congress that made Tennessee the sixteenth state of the union. In 1819, the county was named Hamilton (after Alexander Hamilton), and nineteen years later, Chattanooga became a city.

The earliest known history of East Ridge began a century and half ago, when, in the early **1840s**, Pressley R. Lomenick moved his family east of Missionary Ridge and settled close to the stagecoach road which ran between Chattanooga, Tennessee and Ringgold, Georgia, to become one of the first settlers in the area, along with other families such as Green, Conner, Smith, McBrien, Lerch, Harris, Boyd, etc. The Lomenick family, headed by Jacob Lomenick, came from the Alsace-Lorraine region of France to South Carolina in the early 1840s, where they were real estate property surveyors. Pressley R. Lomenick was born in South Carolina in 1805. He died in 1865.

In the early 1840s, they moved to a location east of Missionary Ridge with land holdings centered around what is now the 4100 block of Ringgold

Road to Marlboro Avenue, and extending almost to Brainerd Road. The homeplace of the Lomenicks is reported to have been located where the Bookout Building stands today, and was most likely constructed of logs, as were most of the homes at that time.

In **1847**, the Lomenick Cemetery was founded by Pressley R. Lomenick. The cemetery was a family burial place, along with surrounding neighbors and friends, which included the Conner and Green families, who were also early settlers. The cemetery was located at the top of the highest hill of the Lomenick property. Today, the cemetery stands as a landmark to this founding family. (An interesting note: The road leading from Ringgold Road to the cemetery was called Cemetery Avenue and since the road ended at the cemetery, a street sign on Ringgold Road proclaimed the road as Cemetery Avenue with a smaller sign beneath saying Dead End. Someone with a sense of humor made a snapshot of the signs, which was published in a tabloid magazine.)

The area was a farming area – a rural/residential area with a small population, but growing. There was no public transportation; homes were illuminated with kerosene, gasoline and carbide gas lamps; there were no telephone lines and water was drawn from a well. Most people drove horses and buggies. There was a narrow stagecoach road connecting Chattanooga and Ringgold, Georgia, which became known as Ringgold Road. The oldest known store in the area was owned and operated by Thomas "Pone" Lomenick and was closed in 1895.

In the **1880s**, a section from Missionary Ridge to Greens Lake Road became known as Smoky Row, and in **1890**, a section of McBrien Road was known as Nickel Street (or Row). This area was the site of one of the first horse race tracks in the area, an oval track located on McBrien Road in the direction of Brainerd Road; this track was owned by a Mr. Pierce. In 1900, there was a store in the area which sold many penny items; for this reason, and because of the small wagers made at the horse track, Mrs. Eliza McBrien is credited with naming this section Penny Row; mail addressed to Penny Row was delivered promptly. Also, around 1900, there was a store and post office officially named Scruggs, Tennessee, located out beyond Chickamauga Creek near the old Scruggs Bridge. In **1903**, the area was known as East Side, 9<sup>th</sup> District.

The oldest known school in the area was the McAfee Chapel School. McAfee Chapel was build in North Georgia overlooking the large springs which formed the head of Spring Creek, and was named after a prominent settler in the area. The date of organization is now known, but it is believed that the Indians worshipped with this group before they left the area. The building was burned during the Civil War, and was reorganized in **1868** as the Newnan Springs Methodist Episcopal Church and according to church history, "it is probable that the first church school was organized in 1868 when the church was reorganized after the Civil War." The first school years were struggling ones, because the school was closed in **1874**, but in **1893**, had reopened with thirty-two pupils and five teachers.

Spring Creek Baptist Church was organized in **1860**, and services were held in a log house built near the site of the present church. The building was burned during the Civil War, and in **1893**, a one-room structure was built to serve as both a church and school house.

Next came the Lomenick School, which was located near the site of the present day East Ridge Elementary School. The Lomenick School was closed around **1900**, and at the corner of John Ross Road and Bennett Avenue, a school was opened called the Scrougeout School, so called because of the difficulty getting out the one small door of the school. Mr. Joseph Carson of Gleason Drive was the teacher. An interesting story tells of the closing of the Scrougeout School in November of one of those early years due to a violent misunderstanding between the teacher, John Paul Jones, and the father of some of the pupils. As the story goes, the pupils had a vacation for the rest of the school term.

Around this time, the Seventh Day Adventist Church located on McBrien Road also had a school. Many of the children in the area went to this school even though they were not Adventists.

In **1910**, the Scrougeout and Spring Creek schools were closed and consolidated into the East Side School on Ringgold Road and Marlboro Avenue (now part of the East Ridge Baptist Church). The school had seven rooms and pupils ranging from the first through the sixth grade. Mr. Rogers was principal, and a PTA group was formed in **1918** by Mrs. Anna B. Lacey, Mrs. J. B. Laudendach, Mrs. A. H. McKeehan, Mrs. J. R. Duncan and Mrs. Gus R. Tombras. These mothers took turn cooking a big pot of

soup and bringing it to the school each day. They purchased tin cups and spoons for each child, scratched the child's name on them and hung them in the hallway for food and water. Water was drawn from a cistern behind the school until 1918, when a well was dug on the corner. An inscription still at the site reads East Side **1910**. When the school was closed in 1939, enrollment had grown from one hundred to three hundred and fifty.

More families moved "east of the ridge" and many of their names are repeated daily because of the streets they named: McBrien, Boyd, Harris, Lerch, Cline, Stump, Roper, Waterhouse, Lee, Smith (Sorghum John, Mack, Old Whistling John and Lying John), Green (Greenslake Road), along with Conner (Conner Estates), Bean, Carson, Johnson, Wilson, Steinmann, Citty, Gober, McDonald, Snyder, McAfee, Eidson, Elrod, Page, Dickert, Goodner, Denton, Turner, Walters, Corbley, Ward, Boulder, Pratcherd, Hulse, Ellison, Kellerhaus, Schaich, Hardy, etc. Some of these families stayed and some moved away, but it is surprising to know how many of their descendants still live in the area today.

From **1900** to **1916**, the population remained around 200 people, including children. There were 40 registered voters and these were all male, since Women's Suffrage had not yet been passed.

In **1904**, Sam Snyder and John Stansel built a small one-room store at the corner of McBrien and Ringgold Roads. They dissolved partnership and Mr. Snyder built and operated a store and mill (which later burned) across the street from Mr. Stansel. Alf Thompson had a store across the street from Mr. Snyder in **1906**.

In **1910**, Volney Smith operated a grocery store at Spring Creek and Ringgold Roads, which later was moved to Mack Smith and Ringgold Roads and operated until 1921. Mr. Smith had a horse-drawn delivery wagon. A Mr. Walters operated a blacksmith shop behind Mr. Smith's store.

The Hardy Store at Germantown and Ringgold Roads was built in 1910. Mr. Charles Schievelhud operated a store on Ringgold Road from **1915** to **1918**. In **1916**, Sam Goodner built a store at South Seminole and Ringgold Roads; this store was later operated by a Mr. Goldsmith.

The area was known as the East Side Voting Precinct.

Before 1916, there were few automobiles in the area – most people drove horses and buggies. Mrs. May Duncan reports that around 1916, even though there were no lights or water, there were about six telephones in the area. The Duncans purchased a Ford, which was the first automobile in this area, and Mrs. Bertie Smith drove her father's automobile. It is believed that these were the only two automobiles in the area at that time.

The people who lived in East Side walked to the top of Missionary Ridge to catch a streetcar, or if they missed it, walked to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, when going to Chattanooga. There was bus service soon after provided by the Thomas Bus Lines, which ran from Ringgold, Georgia, to Chattanooga and picked up passengers in East Side.

In 1917, during World War I, several young men from East Side left to serve their country – among them were E. A. Boyd, Paul, Dave, Banks and Press Lomenick, B. T. McDonald, Tuell Cline, Claude Smith, W. F. Waterhouse, Charles A. Thompson, Ed Wooten and John and Lee Arnold. The only young man who did not return from the war was Paul Lomenick, who was killed in action; Press Lomenick was wounded (he died in 1970).

In 1919 B. D. Stone built a wooden store at the corner of Ringgold and McBrien Roads (former site of Stone Bros. Hardware and present site of H&C Religious Supplies). He also built a 20' x 20' building at the rear of the store which was used as a meeting place where concerned citizens met – in essence, the first town hall. A non-sectarian Sunday school was held every Sunday afternoon at the East Side School.

Social life consisted of box suppers, ice cream socials, pie suppers and dinners held by the PTA for political aspirants. Quilting parties and raffles were also held.

In 1920, World War I was over and the boys, for the greater part, were back home. People began to think about the comforts of peace. One of the thoughts of progressive citizens was for electric lights. Citizens met in the East Side School, a gray pebble-dash building at the corner of Marlboro Avenue and Ringgold Road., for the purpose of becoming a chartered town in order to obtain the electric lights. The assembled people elected a mayor, S. M. Hudlow, and Commissioners R. J. Citty, S. M. Snyder, P. C.

Pennebaker and Mike Lerch. (Mayors were not elected as such – they were appointed by other members of the newly elected commission.)

These men had a charter of incorporation drawn up and asked the legislature of Tennessee to grant it. (A community that desires to make collective purchases must gather funds or borrow money. To borrow money by the sale of bonds or gather money by the collection of taxes, the group must have a charter to do business as a corporation and to be legally responsible for their actions as a group.) The men temporarily elected as mayor and commissioners were to act as president and board of directors to administer the business of the corporation known as the Town of East Ridge. (When the papers were being drawn up to get a charter, it is said that the lawyer, Shepherd Pope, asked Mr. B. D. Stone what to call this section and Mr. Stone promptly replied "East Ridge".)

The original charter of the Town of East Ridge was modeled on that of the city of Chattanooga and was a complete charter covering all functions of a city.

On April 4, 1921, the General Assembly passed House Bill #1271, Chapter 569 of the Private Acts of Tennessee of 1921, and East Ridge was a full-fledged, fully incorporated town, with a population of about three hundred.

Another election then had to be held to elect a mayor and commission to serve the new town and administer its affairs for the next two years (without pay). On the fourth Tuesday of April 1921, an election was held and the following citizens installed in office: Mayor, S. M. Hudlow; Mayor Pro-Tem, W. W. Dupree; Commissioner of Health and Welfare, R. J. City; Commissioner of Public Utilities, E. W. Arnold; and Town Clerk, B. D. Stone. J. S. McBrien was appointed the first marshal of East Ridge, and acted as arresting officer and prosecutor. (After an election of a board of commissioners, a mayor was appointed from within the group. The general rule-of-thumb was that the man who had received the most votes would become the mayor; and the man receiving the second-most votes would become the mayor pro-tem, or vice mayor.) According to the charter, the commission must meet once a month, but most likely, they met more often.

On July 2, 1921, the ground work of organizing a new town having been completed, the commission began the prime purpose of the town's

formation – the purchase of electric lights. A resolution was passed asking for the issuance and sale of bonds in the amount of \$20,000.00 to purchase electric service for the area. By September, bonds had been authorized, sold and a contract for installation of electric lines awarded to the Cantrell Company, a utilities contractor; power was to be furnished by the Chattanooga Railway and Light Company. Work was underway to transform the kerosene lamped village to a town with electric lights.

Things did not progress smoothly, it seems, since on September 24, 1921, Commissioner Arnold resigned.

In October 1921, the first speed limit for vehicles on Ringgold Road was fixed at 15 miles per hour – and it was enforced.

On December 5, 1921, Mayor Hudlow resigned (there was some disagreement between Mayor Hudlow and the commissioners over the awarding of the power line contract) and Mr. Dupree became mayor; R. J. Citty became Mayor Pro-Tem and Volney Smith was appointed a commissioner. Mr. Hudlow continued to be active, though, in the affairs of the town.

**1922**, a tax rate was fixed at \$0.50 per \$100.00 of assessed evaluation of property. On August 7, 1922, W. L. Sansing was appointed as a deputy marshal – East Ridge now had two policemen.

May 23, 1922 – moved commission office to school building on Ringgold Road.

In September 1922, the electric power and light lines were completed – the total mileage of poles and lines was 13.9 miles. Soon after electric lighting was accomplished, Mr. Hudlow was designated as a committee of one to investigate the matter of securing telephone service for the town. By the end of 1922, telephone lines were being strung along the power poles.

During 1922, Mr. Citty said that Marshal McBrien was not doing his job. The commission office was moved to the East Side School on Ringgold Road. Mr. Citty objected to citizens giving the mayor the authority to extend power lines – he called it a dirty deal. Mayor Dupree resigned but his resignation was not accepted. Mr. Citty resigned his post because of city

indebtedness. E. F. Dennis was appointed a commissioner. Marshall McBrien was replaced by C. B. Bowling.

On April 30, 1923, a new commission was elected: S. M. Hudlow, Mayor; W. W. Robinson, J. V. Carroll, R. J. Citty and C. T. Smith. They immediately passed ordinances governing the parking of vehicles on Ringgold Road and an ordinance forbidding the manufacture, storage and sale of whiskey, wine and beer within the city limits of the Town of East Ridge.

These corporate limits (about 4,000 acres) began approximately at a point on Crest Road on Missionary Ridge, going east along Anderson Avenue to South Chickamauga Creek, thence to the Georgia state line, along the Georgia state line extending south to State Line Road and then west along State Line Road to South Crest Road. Crest Road is the western boundary between East Ridge and Chattanooga.

It is reported that, for reasons not clear, former mayor Dupree refused to turn over the books, and Mayor Hudlow asked for an audit. All commissioners reportedly made \$1,000.00 bond. No further information is known about this matter.

The Town of East Ridge needed a focal point such as town office or building, and on February 18, 1924, the Lomenick family deeded to the Town of East Ridge a plot of ground on the corner of Marlboro Avenue and Ringgold Road, suitable for the erection of a town hall – property just across the road from the old school house first used as a meeting place. The deed stated that the property was for use of the Town of East Ridge as a town hall site, to be returned to the Lomenick estate when it was no longer used as public property.

A white frame structure was completed on the site in early 1924 and used until 1951, when the small wooden structure which was used as a town hall for 28 years and the lot on which it stood were returned to the Lomenick estate in 1953.

Between July 1922 and 1924, property taxes in East Ridge had been raised to \$0.65 per \$100.00 of assessed evaluation of property, but in July of 1924, the tax rate was reduced to \$0.35.

In May of 1925, a new commission headed by Mayor Fred Frawley accepted the offer of the Tennessee Electric Company of \$26,250.00 for the East Ridge power lines. The lines were sold at a profit after being used by the town for over four years, and the maintenance of the lines, the improvement and extension, was a burden lifted from the town. The electric lines had been installed for several years and it was felt that patronage had been profitable for the power company and the lines should be sold. Other commissioners were Leroy Reeves, J. H. Brotbeck, W. C. Harris and George McDonald.

Several other tasks these men addressed was: better roads – at this time, only one main road was oiled and part of another one – prominent road signs for intersections – a stock law to prohibit animals from roaming at large – beautification of yards to encourage all citizens to improve the appearance of their homes.

**1926** - Following a tent meeting conducted by Rev. C. F. Lucas, he organized a class named the East Ridge Methodist Episcopal Class. There was no church building so the East Ridge commissioners offered the use of the Town Hall, consisting of one large room and a stage – two small rooms were added later on each side of the stage.

On February 15, 1926, the commission, by a split but majority vote, passed a resolution authorizing the mayor to borrow up to \$20,000.00 in the name of the town for the purpose of installing a city water system. By May of 1926, a contract had been signed by the City Water Company of Chattanooga to install water lines for \$24,006.07. It is reported that citizens filed a lawsuit against the Town of East Ridge to stop the water bond.

**1927** - the newly elected commission: Fred Frawley, mayor; Leroy Reeves, J. H. Brotbeck, W. C. Harris and Fred Brown.

**1928** -The Bachman Tubes (twin tunnels build through Missionary Ridge to connect the Town of East Ridge and the city of Chattanooga) were constructed, and were dedicated to Dr. Jonathan Waverly Bachman, who had

been pastor of the First Presbyterian Church for fifty years. His son, Nathan, was to become famous as a senator from Tennessee.

Prior to 1928, Ringgold Road was a narrow tar and gravel road, but in 1928, it was paved with concrete and widened to 20 feet –and ran from the Bachman Tubes to the Georgia state line.

A garden club was organized in 1928, and named the Bachman Garden Club in honor of Dr. Jonathan Waverly Bachman. The first president was Mrs. Gus Tombras. The club disbanded in 1938, but reorganized in April 1949 – there was \$7.00 left in the treasury in 1938, and this sum was passed down to the new group in 1949.

**1929** - the newly elected commission: Fred Frawley, mayor; Leroy Reeves, G. R. McDonald, W. C. Harris and J. H. Brotbeck.

On July 15, 1929, the first bus service began in the Town of East Ridge, going out Ringgold as far as Spring Creek Road. At first, service was each hour, from 5:30am to 10:30pm, but due to lack of patronage, it was cut back to just four trips daily, two in the morning and two in the evening.

On July 23, 1929, Chattanooga Gas Company made manufactured gas available for domestic use to a limited number of East Ridge homes along the East Ridge-Brainerd borders.

**1930** - Ringgold Road was paved with asphalt and widened into a four-lane road.

Anna B. Lacey school was built in order to relieve the overcrowdedness at East Side School.

Population was about 1,500.

Reportedly, the first tourist court called The Barn was built, but no further information has been found.

Bus service expanded to include the Loop (via Bennett Road back to Ringgold Road.)

Members of B Troop, 109<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Tennessee National Guard, purchased land in the eastern section of East Ridge. They contributed their checks to help buy the land and named it for their friend and officer, Paul H. Jordan. The U.S. Army furnished horses to the State National Guard and Camp Jordan was used for training purposes. The land was auctioned off by the Tennessee National Guard in 1946 and all the members who could be found were reimbursed for their contributions.

**1931** - the newly elected commission: Fred Frawley, mayor; Leroy Reeves, G. R. McDonald, W. C. Harris and J. H. Brotbeck.

On December 1931, bus service had been extended from Spring Creek Road to Smith's Store and Filling Station. In 1932, the end of the bus line was further extended beyond Chickamauga Creek and a night trip was added, but was discontinued in 1933.

**1933** - the newly elected commission: W. C. Harris, mayor; Charles Lerch, J. H. Brotbeck, William Schmidt, and N. C. Carr. (G. R. McDonald resigned and William Schmidt appointed.)

The first building inspector, J. C. Cordell, was hired. Building permits were \$2.00, as were inspections.

Until 1933, the Town of East Ridge had police powers under a full charter. But many of the town's citizens had become so dissatisfied with that they perceived to be ill-advised use, or even abuse, of the police powers in East Ridge, citizens unknown took the town charter to Nashville and had the General Assembly take out the police and utility clauses. This left the Town of East Ridge with a limited charter, having no jurisdiction over its utilities, namely, its schools, roads, police, fire and garbage services. By this charter limitation, control over these things was remanded to the County of Hamilton and to private companies of all of the above services.

On June 19, 1933, a mass meeting of citizens was held to ask the Tennessee Electric Power Company for better and more extensive bus service.

July 1933, the property tax rate was again reduced to \$0.14 per \$100.00 of property evaluation.

**1935** - the newly elected commission: W. C. Harris, mayor; William Schmidt, J. H. Brotbeck, N. C. Carr and Unknown.

In 1935, P. R. Lomenick offered the East Ridge Methodist Episcopal Church a lot on which to build a church for as long as the building was used as a church. It was to be returned to his heirs and estate when it was no longer used as a church. The offer was accepted and the church began. The name was later changed to Jones Memorial Methodist Church in honor of their pastor, Reverend D. T. Jones.

**1936** - Through bus service from the downtown area was discontinued and busses shuttled from Fort Cheatham (23<sup>rd</sup> St. and Dodds Ave.) to the end of the line.

**1937** - no records of election.

**1937** - Father J. Harold Shea arrived in Chattanooga 7-1-1937 and a meeting was held in the newly purchased 40-acre farm home of Mrs. Ed Anderson. He, with the help of some one hundred families in this new parish, planned to build a church and rectory first and later a convent and school. Ground was broken for a brick and stone gothic church building on 1-4-1938 and was completed in September. The new school would open in September or 1948 with enrollment of 140.

**1939** - the newly elected commission: W. C. Harris, mayor; J. H. Brotbeck, William Schmidt, Charles Lerch and W. C. Caldwell. A Mr. Dixon was named the city attorney.

The East Ridge Grammar School opened in September 1939, with Principal Margaret B. Harper Bass and six teachers. Enrollment was 150; it was dedicated on Sunday, April 7, 1940.

The East Ridge Baptist Church was organized by Reverend John C. Williamson as an out-growth of a Sunday school which had been organized October 24, 1939 in the old East Ridge school house at the corner of Marlboro Avenue and Ringgold Road.

**1941** - the newly elected commission: W. C. Caldwell, mayor; Woodrow Ireland, Earl Wattenbarger, J. H. Brotbeck and Charles Lerch.

**1942** - In December 1942, the East Ridge Church of Christ was organized - 32 people met. They first moved to the old town hall, then on June 17, 1948, they moved to Ringgold Road and West End Avenue.

**1943** -the newly elected commission: W. C. Caldwell, mayor; Woodrow Ireland and J. H. Brotbeck. The names of the other two commissioners are not known.

On October 30, 1944, a step was taken that would put the city on the map and help make it the fastest growing community in Tennessee. A community builder, Weldon F. Osborne, purchased a one hundred and sixty-acre tract of hilly, wooded land along U.S. Highway 41 (on Ringgold Road), which would one day be transformed into the Osborne Shopping Center.

**1945** - the newly elected commission: W. C. Caldwell, mayor; Woodrow Ireland, J. H. Brotbeck, Earl Wattenbarger and Charles Lerch.

The tax rate was again lowered, this time to \$0.10 per \$100.00 of property evaluation.

The commission purchased government bonds with a maturity value of \$25,000.00, which would cover the water bonds sold in 1926. Additional sources of revenue coming into the city in 1949 enabled the commission to pay off the bonds before maturity, thus enabling the town to keep its government bonds.

Kingwood Baptist Church was organized in 1946 with 86 members. They met in the old East Ridge Town Hall until the latter part of the year when they moved into a building at 3522 Ringgold Road.

Natural gas had come to Chattanooga and the gas company provided full service to North Smith Road, to be extended as the city grew.

In 1946, Osborne Hardware and Supply Company was the first commercial enterprise to open for business in the Osborne Shopping Center.

**1947** -the newly elected commission: Charles Crouch, mayor; Charles Lerch, R. D. Payne, Hubert Hailey and J. H. Brotbeck.

Spurred by a postwar building shortage, a stream of newcomers in search of homes, lower property taxes, etc., poured across Missionary Ridge since 1946. The census rose from 2,937 in 1940 to 9,460 in 1950, a gain of 228% over a decade.

The first funds from the Tennessee state sales tax were coming into the town treasury.

After the war, bus service was restored to full service.

To meet the needs of the post-war scramble for homes (and to provide customers for his shopping center), Weldon F. Osborne completed one hundred and seventy-five homes in the area now known as Welwood Heights. The Electric Power Board said this was the first all-electric subdivision in the United States.

During World War II, citizens of East Ridge organized air raid and disaster committees. After the war, this organization continued to function as mutual assistance in East Ridge, and became the Improvement League of East Ridge, a citizens' organization of immense value to the community, functioning in close cooperation with the town commissioners and its first president was Charles Crouch, then mayor of East Ridge.

**1948** - Since, in 1948, the Town of East Ridge was still operating under a limited charter, it could not spend money on the needs of the town, namely roads, schools, police, sanitation, fire or garbage services, and Hamilton County was unable to provide adequate funding. The Improvement League began circulating petitions asking for a referendum to restore the charter to its original form with full powers as a full charter, so that the commission could render services now demanded by the burgeoning population. A referendum was set for April 26, 1949.

Reverend John Smith, pastor of Alton Park Baptist Church, purchased land on McBrien Road and placed a tent on one of the lots where worship services were held. The cornerstone of the church building was laid in 1948 and the East Ridge Church of God building was completed soon after.

The first nursery and kindergarten was operated by Mrs. Bruce Shipley.

**1949** -the newly elected commission: Henry C. Harris, mayor; Foy Crabtree, J. H. Brotbeck, Warren Dodd and E. A. Boyd.

The referendum that would have provided the town with a restored full charter was defeated by East Ridge citizens because they feared taxes would skyrocket, leaving the town still operating under a limited charter.

One hundred and twenty-six building permits were issued for a valuation of \$750,780.00.

The improvement League had asked for traffic lights on Ringgold Road, and in February 1949, four new traffic lights were installed.

March 1949 – Mrs. Turley Rankin, an Improvement League member, established an East Ridge weekly called The Review.

Attempts were made to have Ringgold Road paved to four lanes.

Land adjacent to East Ridge School was drained and graded for a public playground.

During a tent revival, the Scott Memorial Church of God was organized in August 1949.

The Lutheran School moved from Chattanooga to East Ridge, locating at Belvoir and Fountain Avenues.

Blaney Forest Garden Club was organized in 1949, with twelve members.

The Improvement League, in an effort to unify the town and break up some territorial cliques which were arising, introduced a motion that a committee be appointed to contact commissioners in regard to building a town hall and community center for public use for all citizens of East Ridge. A committee consisting of a PTA member from each school was appointed to work with Tom Cuthbert on preliminary plans.

(This undocumented information is included FWIW: Sometime in the 1940s, according to some undocumented handwritten notes, 1,000 books were purchased at a cost of \$1,500.00, whether by the town or a private business is not clear, and in 1947, library service was brought to Kingwood Drugs. Around 1942-45, assessment was \$4,000,000.00 and tax \$0.10. TML fee \$60.00, tabled in 1949; join in 1951. Purchased books for two

schools, East Ridge and Anna B. Lacey. Beer tax \$422.25 6 mos; sales tax \$1,100.00 per month average. 1948-assessment \$6,015,000.00, tax \$0.10.)

**1950** - New buildings in residential areas, construction of the Osborne Business District, construction of two new schools and six new churches and other real estate operations contributed to the growth and development of East Ridge's many subdivisions (Welwood Heights, Blaney Forest, McDonald Hills, Lansdell Park, Castle Park, Gilbert Hills, Town and Country Estates, Belvoir Terrace, Oakhurst Addition, Crestwood Hills, Echo Hills on Anderson Avenue, Poindexter Heights, Belvoir Hills, Brookfield Circle, Madonna Acres, Hamilton Place, Chanticleer Farms, Wynnwood Hills, Indian Woods, Belvoir Terrace, Maple Park, Oak Park, Highland Park, Kingwood Estates, Ealy Subdivision, Bellemead, Crestwood, Daro Vista, Shady Grove Addition, were developed, many of which became known by the streets on which they were located.

Two hundred and fifteen building permits were issued for a total valuation of \$1,158,900.00.

The naming of streets was a major task as construction skyrocketed. In Welwood Heights, many were named for servicemen who died in World War II, such as Bales Avenue (Major W. T. Bales), Connelly Lane (Cadet Glenn W. and Lt. Sam Connelly), Sullivan Avenue (Flight Lt. Leroy M. Sullivan), Daniel Drive (Hugh S. Daniel) and Whitehead Avenue (Pvt. Joseph L. Whitehead.)

Blaney Forest bears the name of Dan Blaney, federal architect who completed the project design in a Boston hospital a short time before his death; Parham Drive was named for Carter Parham of WDEF; Ida Bell Lane for his mother, Ida Bell Parham; Wimberly Lane for Mrs. Emma Wimberly of Chattanooga.

By February **1950**, the committee's report was complete; the commissioners had also been laying preliminary plans, and the cooperative result was that the commission purchased five acres of land on Tombras Avenue, paying cash, and proceeded to have a town hall constructed on a pay-as-you-go basis (\$30,000.00 through economies effected by former mayor E. A. Boyd, who supervised construction without charge.) The commission asked the federal government for a sanitary sewer survey, and

Ringgold Road had been paved to four lanes. Natural gas came to Chattanooga and East Ridge service was expanded. Bachman Tubes were repaired.

It is believed that the commissioners met in each other's homes during 1949 and 1950.

March 27, 1950 - a 16-acre tract from the Jim McDonald farm was purchased for \$17,500.00 for the Spring Creek School. Construction began in March 1951.

April 3, 1950 - the Improvement League asked the Hamilton County Election Commission they be allowed to purchase voting machines. It would be 1952 before Commissioner Crabtree instigated the purchase of eight voting machines for East Ridge.

Osborne and Morgan blocks of business establishments had taken form and East Ridge fast acquired all types of businesses and professional services.

Duncan Park Baptist Church began in April of 1950 as a chapel of Highland Park Baptist Church, and became independent in 1963.

**1951** - the newly elected commission: E. A. Boyd, mayor; Foy Crabtree, Warren E. Dodd, John W. Hardin and C. C. Hobbs. This commission ran as the "People's Ticket" and was elected as a whole. This commission worked in harmony and their accomplishments were many:

Completed the town hall, furnishing it with a complete kitchen, seats, tables, dishes, heat, ventilating fans, stage, parkway paving, etc.

Made a complete survey of East Ridge and erected permanent metal street markers over the entire community.

Purchased nine additional acres of municipal property adjacent to the town hall acreage for a recreation area and a lighted athletic field was built.

Two new traffic lights were installed.

Playground equipment (\$1,500.00) was loaned by this commission to the three East Ridge Schools.

Established a playground and recreational fund and appointed private citizens to administer this fund (J. W. "Whiz" Anderson, Wayne Hughie, A. B. Helms, James Hatch and Woodrow Craig.)

Employed a city attorney of unimpeachable reputation (Mr. Joseph B. Roberts.)

Purchased eight Shoup electric voting machines. East Ridge was the first in Hamilton County to purchase voting machines. The eight they purchased were later sold to Hamilton County in a reciprocal agreement.

Instigated a sanitary sewerage survey and complete working blueprints were made and okayed by all governmental agencies involved (local, state and federal).

Three hundred and one building permits were issued for a valuation of \$1,737,290.00

February 19, 1951 - the East Ridge Presbyterian Church organized with 41 members. They first met in homes, then in the old East Ridge Town Hall, and in another house at 5507 Ringgold Road, rented and converted in June, 1951. They then moved into a newly constructed building, which was dedicated on July 29, 1951.

The Church of the Nazarene began in March, 1951.

June 1951 - Hamilton County had been collecting the new ten percent Retail Beer Tax for East Ridge on a commission basis. When Hamilton County stopped their collection of this tax, the courts ruled that the Town of East Ridge was entitled to this tax.

**1952** - Hamilton County had been collecting the new ten percent Retail Beer Tax for East Ridge on a commission basis. When Hamilton County stopped their collection of this tax, the courts ruled that the Town of East Ridge was entitled to this tax.

Two hundred and ninety three building permits were issued with a valuation of \$1,896,080.00

Many civic organizations were formed, such as the Captain William Blair Post of the American Legion (the William E. Blair post was named in memory of Captain William E. Blair, a heroic army pilot who, in 1949, sacrificed his life by refusing to abandon his burning plane as it passed over

East Ridge), the Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club (whose first project was to bring a bank to East Ridge); The Square and Compass Club which emerged as East Ridge Masonic Lodge, U.D., Lioness Club, along with several garden and flower clubs, and the social and dance clubs.

The East Ridge Evangelical Methodist Church was organized on January 15, 1952, with 16 members.

The East Ridge Christian Church was organized on January 13, 1952 with 34 original members.

The Shady Grove Garden Club was founded on September 5, 1952. Meetings were held at the Grace Episcopal Church.

Spring Creek Elementary School was completed and dedicated on Sunday, November 9, 1952. It opened on August 25, 1951, with grades one through seven and 692 students enrolled. A PTA was formed on September 5, 1952 with 150 parents present.

Weldon Osborne completed the Cascades Motel, one of the most pretentious in this section of the south – the first in Chattanooga to be completely air conditioned. He also completed the Tick Tock Grill, built with private dining rooms for meetings of civic groups or clubs, and was working on a department store.

November 1952 – Warren Dodd resigned; James Anderson appointed. City attorney hired.

**1953** -the newly elected commission: Foy Crabtree, mayor; Calvin Payne, Charles Crouch, Warren Dodd and E. A. Boyd.

This commission carried on the work of the previous commission, and one of their major concerns was residential street lighting and street maintenance. For whatever reason, in the 1953 election, the citizens of East Ridge voted NOT to accept the approximately \$65,000.00 per year allocated to East Ridge from the state gasoline tax. This sum was sent to East Ridge by the state on a tentative ruling by the Attorney General. It was for roads and streets only, and because of the limited charter, East Ridge could not spend any of it.

Three hundred and nineteen building permits were issued with a valuation of \$1,973,490.00

April 1, 1953 - the first bank in East Ridge opened - the Ridgedale Bank and Trust Company. The Madonna Acres Garden Blue was organized in April 1953.

The William E. Blair Post 95 purchased a new two-story building at 3810 Ringgold Road (a \$20,000.00 structure).

Land was purchased in the Spring Creek area to provide additional recreational areas.

The Jones Memorial Methodist Church kindergarten began.

Permanent street lights were installed in December 1953.

A \$48,500.00 sewerage survey was instigated and complete working blueprints were made and approved by all governmental agencies concerned.

December 1953 - Hamilton County approved architects' plan for the building of a new 16 classroom East Ridge Junior High School, which would accommodate about 500 students (hinging upon the approval of acquiring the property from the Town of East Ridge, adjoining the East Ridge Town Hall).

**1954** - In a special election on January 12, 1954, Home Rule was approved for East Ridge by a six-to-one margin. This enabled the commissioners to take more control of the governing of its citizens. East Ridge was the first Tennessee municipality to approve Home Rule.

In 1954, township voters in a referendum rejected full incorporation as a municipality. A private fire department and garbage company served the town. Voters also rejected by almost a four-to-one margin a proposed sewer bond issue and turned down a windfall from the state's one-cent gasoline tax refund to cities for street work. Refund checks were held in escrow pending the disposition of the question by the town.

A safety council was appointed - their duties were to warn offenders who exceeded the speed limit and hire custodians to assist school children at dangerous intersections.

Four hundred and sixty one building permits were issued with a valuation of \$3,009,870.00.

A five-mile stretch of Ringgold Road was lighted – and called the White Way. The city paid a monthly rental fee of \$888.00 to the Electric Power Board.

Ordinances were passed in August of 1954 in accordance with the new Home Rule charter to permit aid to schools and the maintenance of streets.

A resolution was approved giving 24-hour patrol duty to a private police force headed by E. C. "Spike" Davis, who would furnish five policemen. This was financed by charges of \$10.00 for residences and undetermined charges for businesses.

East Ridge had one of the lowest property tax rates in the county - \$0.10 per \$100.00 of assessed property value plus \$0.01 for recreation. The population was close to 15,000.

The new branch of the East Ridge post office was dedicated on December 2, 1954. The first superintendent was Roy Luttrell.

The new East Ridge Junior High School opened.

**1955** - the newly elected commission: J. W. "Whiz" Anderson, mayor; Charles T. Rhinehart, E. A. Boyd, Jack H. Dunlap and James E. Smith.

The commission passed an ordinance annexing Missionary and Cherokee territory to the Town of East Ridge. Raymond Proctor was hired as City Manager and John Hardin was appointed to fill the post of Jack Dunlap, who resigned. Hardin was Commissioner of Health and Education.

Five hundred and forty-seven building permits were issued with a valuation of \$3,269,600.00.

Estimated population of East Ridge was 16,000.

East Ridge had two newspapers – the East Ridge Sun and the Mirror News.

(According to a brochure of information about the City of East Ridge, East Ridge had 11 auto sales and accessories; 22 service stations; 7 department stores; 10 barber and beauty shops; 10 furniture and appliance stores; 18 grocery stores; 9 hardware and paint stores; 8 variety shops; 17 restaurants; 6 laundries; 3 shoe stores; 3 sheet metal and welding shops, 2 banks, 8 drug stores; 20 tourist and trailer courts; 2 newspapers; 4 public schools; 3 private schools; and 17 churches of 9 different denominations.)

**1956** - By a special election, the town approved a \$1,300,000.00 sewer bond, the beginning of the East Ridge wastewater collection and disposal system. The tax rate was increased by more than 400% to \$0.80 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation

The commission purchased the John Arnold property (eleven acres) near Spring Creek for \$8,000.00 and the one-acre McNabb property for \$3,500.

The subscription paid private police department had their deputy sheriff's commission revoked by request of the East Ridge commissioners. Sheriff V. W. "Red" Maddox was able to provide additional patrol services for the protection of the town. (Newspaper clippings on file will provide additional details of this matter.)

In December, Commissioner Hardin resigned and R. E. Wier was appointed to the post. Alton Citty named manager of the town hall, succeeding C. W. Breaker, who resigned; duties to oversee public use of the town hall.

**1957** -the newly elected commission: Charles T. Rhinehart, mayor; E. A. Boyd, William H. Byrd, William L. Truex and Robert E. Wier. (Roy L. Hubbard was appointed to the post later vacated by Robert E. "Gene" Wier.

Also on the ballot was a referendum giving the citizens an opportunity to vote on the matter of the Town of East Ridge being annexed by the city of Chattanooga. This was soundly defeated by a three-to-one margin. (This

was a matter that had been talked about for several years, both by the city of Chattanooga and some East Ridge citizens.)

March 1957 - the Town of East Ridge was awarded a \$250,000.00 federal grant to aid in the construction of the sewerage treatment plant.

March 1957 - Interstate 75 and Interstate 24 construction began.

March 1957, the Hamilton County Board of Education voted unanimously to purchase a 28-acre site on Bennett Road from former mayor Foy Crabtree for \$50,000.00 for the purpose of building the new East Ridge High School - fifteen classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria and heating unit (fifteen additional classrooms and an athletic field were on the agenda at a later time.)

A new newspaper, The Beacon, was available in East Ridge.

A part of Stump Street which extended south from John Ross Road was renamed Edwards Terrace, by request of the residents.

1958 - Crestwood Addition was annexed by the Town of East Ridge at the request of residents.

November - the East Ridge sewerage disposal plant officially opened.

Hughes Avenue Baptist Church moved to East Ridge.

1959 - the newly elected commission: E. A. Boyd, mayor; Alex Watt, Charles T. Rhinehart, Ethel (Mrs. Foy) Crabtree and H. O. "Pete" Gilreath. Mrs. Crabtree was the first female commissioner in the history of East Ridge.

Again, East Ridge citizens voted against being annexed by the city of Chattanooga. The tax rate remained at \$0.80 per \$100.00 of property valuation.

The East Ridge commission voted to disburse recreation funds through the town treasurer instead of the recreation committee in accordance with a ruling by the State Assistant Attorney.

They also voted to take bids on a change in the traffic light system to include jump lights facilitating left and right turns at certain intersections.

Completion of the sewage disposal plant was accepted as final and satisfactory and the first citizens of East Ridge began to receive sewer service.

East Ridge High School was dedicated.

**1960** - East Ridge Junior High School was built to help relieve the overcrowding of schools caused by the post-World War II baby boom.

The new system of interstate highways opened.

A three-man beer board was established to investigate applicants for permits to sell beer.

A referendum on the ballot for the General Election for a tax increase for street improvements and provide for the organization of a municipally owned fire department was defeated.

September - A \$1 million state program was announced – and approved – by the commission for the widening of Ringgold Road to six lanes and equipped with storm sewers and curbs.

**1961** - the newly elected commission: Tom Shaver, mayor; William Brunson, Ethel Crabtree, Charles Thrailkill and Alex Watt.

March 1961 - East Ridge High School Senior band was honored and East Ridge High School majorettes won top honors in state competition.

East Ridge High School held its first commencement exercise on Shanks Field in June 1961, with 113 seniors receiving diplomas.

July 1961 - Privilege licenses began on a 9-month basis-all companies doing business in East Ridge must purchase a privilege license. A year-to-year system to begin in 1962.

A Street Advisory Committee was formed.

Property tax was increased by \$0.25, to \$1.05 per \$100 of property valuation.

A Safety Committee was formed to help control traffic during the school term

Spring Creek Park ball diamond was lighted – the 2<sup>nd</sup> lighted ball field in the town.

A Civil Air Patrol and an Auxiliary Police Department was formed – Auxiliary Police Chief-Lamar Cook.

October 1, 1961 -The Osborne Shopping Center opened.

November 1961 -First steps in the streets and drainage projects were underway.

**1962** - Final approval of the widening of Ringgold Road to ninety feet approved.

January 1962 – the Town of East Ridge adopted the Southern Building Code, Gas and Plumbing, and the National Electric Code.

April 1962 -the town manager, Charles Barrier, resigned. Charles Thrailkill resigned his commission post and was appointed city manager. Clarence L. Bailey appointed to fill Mr. Thrailkill's post.

May 1962 - Final approval of the widening of Ringgold Road to 90 feet conditionally approved.

November 1962 - East Ridge voters, in a November referendum, restored all the service clauses to the charter, attaining once more a full charter for the Home Rule town (police, fire and garbage clauses.)

Plans to set up a fire and a police department were discussed.

Commission scheduled sanitary sewer extensions for the remaining areas of East Ridge not now served.

Commission gave formal approval to State Highway Department for widening the street from Tombras Avenue south to the freeway interchange and installation of storm sewers, curbs and a center division strip.

Dog-tagging and rabies inoculation clinic was under study.

Auxiliary police grew to 28 members.

November 1962 - Bachman Garden Club dedicated a Norway Spruce tree at the East Ridge Town Hall in memory of deceased members of the club.

The widening of Ringgold Road from Tombras Avenue to the freeway interchange was given final approval - two outside parking lanes, four traffic lanes and left turn lanes at intersections.

The mayor and commissioners approved the purchase of three garbage trucks, so the town could provide its own garbage service.

**1963** - the newly elected commission: Tom Shaver, mayor; Clarence L. Bailey, Commissioner of Health, Education, Fire and Police; William Brunson, Vice-Mayor and Commissioner of Streets and Sewers; G. W. White and Alex Watt, Commissioner of Recreation and Public Services.

East Ridge assumed the title of City of East Ridge.

Entered contract with Humane Educational Society-East Ridge to furnish a dog control program, along with a rabies clinic; under direct supervision of the Humane Educational Society, East Ridge furnished a truck and driver.

A city court was established, Judge William Luther presiding. City attorney was Jack Lusk. Court convened on Monday nights.

Purchased two new police cars and swore in two police officers; commissioned several auxiliary police officers.

New 1963-64 budget to cover new police services and a city judge.

New items in the budget were health insurance for employees and a Humane Society for animal control. Blue Cross health insurance made available to East Ridge employees, paid for by the city.

April 1963 - New street signs were put up to replace old worn ones.

Two hundred and forty building permits for a total value of \$1,100,915.00 issued. Seven hundred and forty-four privilege permits issued. Twenty-four new businesses opened in East Ridge.

Purchased a fourth garbage truck; garbage collections twice a week at a savings of \$8.00 per year to individual residents over old subscription service.

Privately owned fire department granted franchise.

About 60 houses in East Ridge cannot yet tie on to the sewer system. A Better Housing Code ordinance and a Charter Study ordinance were passed.

Since acquiring a full charter, adopted full Code of Ordinances giving East Ridge the same authority and laws as most other cities in Tennessee.

Ordinance approved accepting State of Tennessee Highway Department's proposal of a link in the national system of Interstate I-24 through East Ridge.

Five point junction at Ringgold Road, Kingwood Drive and Greenslake Road entrances, approaches and adjacent parking lots redesigned to make less of a traffic hazard.

April - A garage for road equipment built.

A Recreation and Playground department was established and a Recreation Board was created.

Bonds were issued for street improvements. By end of 1963, major arteries and some minor streets were repaired and paved.

Recreation improvements: Spring Creek Park baseball field; fencing and rebuilding of backstops, erecting new bleacher seats, field for little boys' baseball; purchase and erection of lights for T-league baseball at Town Hall Park.

Under construction at Spring Creek Park was a new ball field and concession stand.

Picnic and play area at Spring Creek developed.

Tennis courts built at Town Hall Park.

City Attorney Roberts resigned.  
Estimated population was 22,000.

**1964** - Ringgold Road was widened to 90 feet from Tombras to Chickamauga Creek.

Referendum on charter amendments to increase taxes in order to form a fire department was defeated by a six-to-one margin.

Fifteen-Twenty miles of road paved with curbs and twice that amount of ditches, storm sewers and drainage tile were done.

Blue Cross benefits in effect for city employees, paid for by the city.  
Gas pumps and service facilities for city vehicles and machinery in place.

**1965** - the newly elected commission: G. W. White, mayor; William C. Haisten, W. D. Farley, Curtis Hixon and Clarence Bailey.

Police department was expanded to a 24-hour operation.  
Roy Parham was the Chief of Police.

Spring Creek Park was officially established.  
Holiday Inn opened on Highway 41 - Ringgold Road - at the I-75 freeway interchange.

A Better Housing Code was adopted.  
Freeway cut through Missionary Ridge opened.

Commissioner Hixon was relieved of his duties as Vice Mayor and Commissioner of Fire and Police.

New construction total: \$1,117,900.00. Fifty-one houses, twenty-six duplexes, one apartment building, three office buildings, three service stations, one industrial building, and one church.

Two new subdivisions approved - 129-unit Mission Oaks largest.

Commissioner Brunson announced that completion of the four-lane roadway on Ringgold Road from the eastern city limits to the Georgia state line is assured. This will include demolition of the narrow antiquated bridge across South Chickamauga Creek, a serious traffic bottleneck, and construction of a new four-lane bridge, or twin double-lane bridges.

A tourist welcome station was proposed.

Widening of Ringgold Road from Tombras Avenue to I-75 freeway completed.

Some twenty miles of cleaning, replacing or correcting drainage ditches improved critical drainage areas in all sections of East Ridge.

\$10,000.00 appropriated to construct a recreation building, shuffleboard courts and press boxes at Spring Creek Park. Recreation: T-League, Dixie Youth, Dixie Boys and Dixie Seniors, softball for girls, tennis at both ball parks, plus recreational areas available for civic clubs, churches and others for picnic and outdoor activities.

**1966** - City Manager Charles Thrailkill; City Attorney Jack Lusk.

January - The commissioners signed a contract with the Tennessee Highway Department for the relocation and reconstruction of South Germantown Road from Ringgold Road (U.S. Highway 41) to Interstate 24.

Board of Commissioners appointed a Charter Study Commission.

An ordinance was approved establishing a Recreation and Playground Department, and creating a Recreation Board.

Hamilton County passed a \$0.01 sales tax and East Ridge commissioners used most of this new revenue for street improvement programs.

East Ridge signed contract with a state-approved, privately owned fire department-(Chief Ralph Pendergrass).

George Hughes appointed to fill the unexpired term of Curtis Hixon.

November 1966 - The East Ridge City Commission adopted a resolution urging the County Council and the Board of Education to act

favorably on a PTA request for an auditorium to be built for East Ridge High School and East Ridge Junior High School.

**1967** - the new commission consists of: G. W. White, mayor; William Haisten, Dan Haley, Curtis Hixon and William D. Farley.

Two new apartment complexes completed- Fountainbleau with 128 units; Belvoir Hills with 54 units; 5 subdivisions under construction/opened: Mission Oaks, Glen Oaks, Crabtree Extension, Proctors and Gail Heights.

Five new businesses under construction/completed - Howard Johnson, Mark Inn, Quality Courts Motel, Phillips Waverly Motel, Chevron and Pure Oil.

**1968** - May - After a lengthy grand jury investigation, it was recommended that changes in the procedures for opening bids, provide for the election of the city judge by popular vote and not appointed by the commissioners, to administer stronger punishment for habitual law violators and upgrade the city jail. Commissioner Hixon was accused of initiating the grand jury investigation.

February 1968 - Ordinance No. 101 passed on third reading, and the Harris Hills-Frawley Road area was annexed and became a part of East Ridge.

May 18, 1968 - Mayor White recommended Judge Luther be relieved of his duties and the motion carried unanimously. The charter commission recommended that 1) all candidates run for the specific office they sought to hold; 2) the city judge to be elected by popular vote, and 3) to amend the charter to provide for annexation only by vote of citizens.

May 21, 1968 - Injunction prohibited ousting of Judge Luther. Also in May 1968, City Manager Charles Thrailkill resigned his position as City Manager. Gene Drakeford was hired as a temporary City Manager.

July 1968 - Under auspices of the East Ridge Recreation Board, the finest swim complex of the region opened with an Olympic-sized pool,

training pool, wading pool, bathhouses, concession stand, seating for spectators and ample parking.

August 1968 - the city adopted the slogan "The New Tourist Capital of Tennessee."

Two new patrol units were added to the police department, and equipment updated.

Quality Court South, Holiday Inn, Mark Inn and Howard Johnson gave East Ridge the largest and finest tourist/convention facilities in the tri-state area - 800 luxury motel rooms constructed within a 5-block area near the new tourist center.

September 1968 - The Tennessee Welcome Center opened, the first in Tennessee. More than four hundred tourists per day visited the center.

Dixie Youth baseball won 1968 Tennessee state championship.

Pop Warner football added to overall sports program on city-wide basis.

Recreation program was expanded to include all age levels.

East Ridge High School football team won all but one game - won the Civic Bowl Championship.

November 1968 - All proposals of the Charter Commission passed the referendum at the General Election. Judge Richard Holcomb was appointed City Judge and Harold Duncan, City Attorney. City Manager was Gene Drakeford.

December 15, 1968 - the commissioners and East Ridge merchants agree on Ringgold Road improvements - four lanes from Tombras to Bachman Tubes with ample parking spaces along the thoroughfare.

Ringgold Road resurfaced from Tombras west to Seminole.

East Ridge experienced record construction boom. More than 200 building permits issued; one thousand residents added.

**1969** - the new commission consisted of: G. W. White, mayor; Lamar Cook, Commissioner of Fire and Police; William D. Farley,

Commissioner of Public Works; Abe Prebul, Commissioner of Public Welfare; and Dan Haley, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation. This was the first city election held in which candidates ran for a particular office.

August 1969 - Mayor and commissioners approved the purchase of property at 1510 Tombras Avenue for a police and court building (\$10,000.00), which was completed in December 1969.

August 1969 - City of East Ridge announced plans to annex 65 acres of land belonging to the city of Chattanooga, but withdrew from the plan after much opposition and many problems.

East Ridge received franchise to bring CATV to the East Ridge area.

The new \$3 million K-Mart Shopping Center first phase completed.  
\$8 million community hospital planned.

Ringgold Road widening starts in summer of 1969 after discussion since 1960.

Surveying and planning for streets and sewers in Harris Hills and Frawley Road area underway.

Work begun on Spring Creek being rerouted from point just west of Spring Creek Road and extending over area of several hundred acres-first step in the on-going flood-control problem.

Two new trucks added to the street department.

The million dollar Belle Meade apartments completed.

Three hundred and fifty-three new building and remodeling permits issued with total value of \$3,107,187.00. Fifty-nine new single-family dwellings, twenty-seven duplexes and five apartment-type structures built.

Motel center: Quality Courts South, Mark Inn, Howard Johnson and Holiday Inn, SE.

Little Comets won the state women's fastpitch softball championship.  
Dixie Senior Boys won the state baseball championship.  
Dixie boys district champions and state runner-up champions.

**1970** – January -East Ridge City Manager Gene Drakeford voted out – termed inefficient in his post.

East Ridge concerned citizens threaten recall move over firing of the city manager.

March 1970 - Board of Zoning Appeals created and members appointed to handle requests for variances for zoning ordinances and applications for conditional permits.

Concerned Citizens for East Ridge Committee formed – goal to expose irregularities in city government in order to develop better municipality.

April 1970 - Motion passed to terminate contract with the Chattanooga Humane Society; the Department of Public Welfare, Health and Sanitation to operate an animal shelter and employ animal wardens.

May 1970 - East Ridge citizens file suit to oust Commissioner Farley.

Petition with 500 names filed with Hamilton County Election Commission asking for special election to elect a new charter study committee.

August 1970 - Fire destroys the ROTC building of East Ridge High School.

Sidewalks installed on South Moore Road and Spring Creek Road, primarily for the safety of school children. Eleven thousand feet of storm sewers installed to help eliminate flooding.

September 1970 - Referendum election held to consider two changes to the Charter of the Town of East Ridge: 1), to change the name to The City of East Ridge, and 2), to increase the tax rate for the purpose of operating a municipal fire department. #1 passed; #2 defeated.

Construction permits for 63 single family dwellings, 13 duplex units and 73 apartments were issued, as well as remodeling and building of stores, banks, churches, etc.

The East Ridge Animal Shelter was constructed at a cost of \$9,767.00.

Headrick Witt was appointed to fill the commission post vacated by Lamar Cook.

Surveying and planning began for streets and sewers in recently annexed Harris Hills-Frawley Road area

All work completed on new police and court building.

1970 Census – population 21,799 – East Ridge one of twelve largest cities in the state of Tennessee.

American National Bank and Hamilton National Bank opened branches in East Ridge; and Pioneer Bank offers drive-through services.

Landmark Apartments completed. Thrippence Apartments under construction.

Southern Coach Lines paid subsidy to continue bus service in East Ridge.

Floodlights were installed at the East Ridge High School ball field and a new press box built; several backstops built at existing ballparks. Dixie Youth Tournament, Dixie Senior Regional and State Tournaments and girls' softball tournaments held at city ball fields.

Ceramics program began at Spring Creek Park Recreational Building. Additions were made by Jones Memorial Methodist Church and Seminole Baptist Church.

K-mart's \$3,000,000.00 shopping center opened.

East Ridge residents urged to use East Ridge 37412 zip code address instead of Chattanooga 37412 – would give East Ridge better chance for federal funds from revenue sharing program.

Two police cars and third garbage truck purchased, as well as new pieces of essential equipment obtained through federal grants. All police department members completed police training course in Donelson, TN. – the first police department in the state to do so.

September 1970 -- East Ridge halts attempts to annex 65 acres.

October 1970 -- approved \$1 million contract to expand/upgrade Spring Creek sewers.

November 1970 - John Kitzrow, former City Administrator of Sparta, TN, hired as City Administrator of East Ridge.

November 1970 - East Ridge voted against the municipally owned fire unit and property tax increase in general election.

December 1970 - ouster proceedings against Commissioner Farley dismissed.

December 1970 -- Commission approved rezoning from residential to commercial a 30-acre tract adjoining Quality Motel South fronting on I-75 for multi-purpose shopping center.

**1971** -- The newly elected commission: G. W. White, mayor; Dan Haley, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation; Headrick Witt, Commissioner of Public Welfare and Education; William Haisten, Commissioner of Fire and Police; and Gene Drakeford, Commissioner of Public Works.

Gene Drakeford resigned his commission post and was appointed City Manager by Mayor White, after Mr. Kitzrow resigned.

Jack Jordan was appointed to fill the vacant Commissioner of Public Works post.

Traffic lights at Belvoir and South Terrace; John Ross and Bennett Roads; Greenslake and Bennett Roads.

Construction on two large residential subdivisions in the Frawley Road-Harris Hills area began.

Sewer collection expansion in Frawley Road-Harris Hills; new sewer cleaning and inspection machine purchased.

New ball field at Spring Creek Park lighted. Program had some 85 teams in baseball, softball and football, enrolling some 1,470 participants ages 6 to 60, male and female.

A resolution was passed authorizing the creation of the Health and Educational Facilities Board of the City of East Ridge and its incorporation.

Two hundred and thirty eight building permits valued at \$1,362,000.00 issued for new single-family units or additions to existing structures. Thirty duplex and 4-unit apartments valued at \$612,000.00 constructed. Total of 354 building permits with total evaluation of \$4.9 million.

Landmark Apartments built two 35-unit structures costing \$650,000.00; Lomenique Apartments of 30 units valued at \$300,000.00 underway; and Thrippence Ten apartments of 80 units valued at \$882,000.00.

April 2, 1971 - EAST RIDGE IS 50 YEARS OLD! A parade was held to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city.

In 50 years, East Ridge has had 11 mayors, 47 commissioners, three city judges and two city attorneys.

East Ridge had six public schools, East Ridge High School, East Ridge Junior High School, McBrien Elementary School, Anna B. Lacey School, East Ridge Elementary School and Spring Creek Elementary School; and three private schools, OLPH, Seventh Day Adventist and the Lutheran School.

March 5, 1971 - Immediately after the swearing-in of the newly elected commissioners, the East Ridge Police Department walked out en masse as the result of a dispute with Commissioner Haisten.

Glenn Broyles was named Police Chief, and \_\_\_\_\_ Byas, a former East Ridge policeman, was named Assistant Police Chief.

The police department realized a complete turnover in personnel - transition was smooth. A new \$5,000.00 phone-monitoring unit to automatically record all incoming calls added.

Three new traffic lights added at Belvoir and South Terrace, John Ross and Bennett Roads, and Greenslake and Bennett Road.

Records at the animal shelter were centralized.

Recreation: 85 teams in baseball, softball and football, with 1,470 participants ranging in age from 6 to 60, male and female.

Several thousand feet of storm water tile placed in ditches abutting city streets.

One hundred and forty-eight room Scottish Inn opened in motel complex at I-75 and Ringgold Road. Quality Motel South completed additions designed to accommodate 100 new guests and facilities to accommodate 600 conventioners' banquets and family-oriented restaurant, Chatterbox - motel largest in area, accommodates ten large size meetings simultaneously.

**1972** - Former commissioner Abe Prebul had attempted to create a library but was unsuccessful. In January 1972, the Board of Commissioners passed Resolution No. 366 for the purpose of creating a library board for the City of East Ridge. Members of the first library board were Paul Starnes, Clark Heath, Richard Durham, Stanley Chronalogar, Thelma Renner, Eudine Britton, Mack Franklin, Mary Maynard, John Totten, R. J. Bruce, Virgil Christa and R. E. Blazier.

The Board of Commissioners also appointed a new Charter Study Advisory Committee. The following charter amendments were put on a referendum in the November general election:

- 1) Increase tax rate to provide fire hydrants.
- 2) Change the length of terms of office for mayor and city commissioners from two years to four years.
- 3) Provide for the reimbursement of the mayor and commissioners for salary or wages lost while attending to city business.
- 4) Increase tax rate to pay cost of city's participation in the CARTA system of public transportation (subsidy to continue bus service in East Ridge).

All proposals were soundly defeated.

Four hundred and seventeen building permits issued for new construction, alterations, remodeling, add-ons, etc., valuation \$12,576,651.00 – 39 family residences, 41 duplexes, 8 apartments. Permits issued to begin construction on 26 new commercial establishments.

\$3,000.00 spent for lights at Spring Creek ball fields.

John Temple became the new baseball and softball commissioner, taking the place of L. B. "Red" Hadden.

Three new policemen were added. Police building remodeled. An identification department staffed and equipped. Grants allowed department to purchase cameras and developing equipment. Four new patrol cars purchased.

City of East Ridge police cars became blue and white.

Cable TV lines and routes were being mapped, and site for transmitting tower being sought in preparation for the first cable television system in East Ridge.

Dr. Berlin Harris opened a veterinary clinic.

Lutheran School destroyed by fire.

The library board, under supervision of Commissioner Witt, used a \$13,000.00 appropriation to pay off a \$6,000.00 loan, purchase books on an elementary, high school and adult level, and paid \$2,000.00 to purchase office machinery and supplies.

Landmark Estates added two new buildings.

Sheraton Inn construction started.

Gibson Discount Center built a \$400,000.00 variety store.

Skates Professional Plaza office buildings were completed.

Ramada Inn got underway with a 150-unit motel, as did Rodeway Inn. Day's Inn filed plans for a 270 room budget-type motel (\$2,231,000.00).

East Ridge Junior High School began an eight room addition.

Tradeco Corp., a textile manufacturing plant employing about 30 people, began operations.

Construction began on East Ridge General Hospital – opening planned 1973/74.

Old assembly courtroom converted to be the East Ridge City Library.

December 3, 1972 – the East Ridge City Library board held an open house to introduce the new library.

**1973** – the newly elected commission: G. W. White, mayor; William C. Haisten, Commissioner of Fire and Police; Headrick Witt, Commissioner of Public Welfare; Charles “Jack” Jordan, commissioner of Public Works; and L. B. “Red” Hadden, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation. William Luther was elected to his second four-year term as City Judge. Gene Drakeford continued as City Manager.

Mr. Drakeford said that East Ridge was in the soundest financial condition it had ever been. No tax increase was needed.

February 1973 - The Lomenick brothers ordered to halt further construction on 80-unit apartment complex – complaints they were building in disregard of specifications of their building permits.

March 1973 – EAST RIDGE CITY LIBRARY is open for business. After much work by the Library Board and commission, the old assembly room over the City Hall was converted into a suitable place, and the East Ridge City Library became a reality. Membership had soon grown to six hundred and forty-five patrons, with the total number of books at three thousand four hundred – average circulation at that time was five hundred books per month.

1973 was also the year of the St. Patrick's Day Flood, the flood now referred to as the One Hundred Year Flood. The flood did millions of dollars in damages to the east end of the city, especially Spring Creek and Chickamauga Creek areas.

Sanitation Department had five trucks.  
A "crash wagon" added to police department fleet.

Seven police officers attended college, pursuing associate degrees in law enforcement; 13 attended specialized training school for refresher and advanced courses.

Three lighted tennis courts opened next to City Hall.

January 1973 - Embarked on a 2-year program to modernize and update the street lighting system.

Permits for 24 single unit houses (\$542,425.00); 15 duplex units (\$310,900.00); and 3 apartment buildings (\$3,302,325.00) issued; 15 commercial permits totaling \$2,790,354.00; 338 alteration and repair permits totaling \$660,374 issued, many due to St. Patrick's Day flood damage.

Sewer services extended to new citizens in Harris Hills-Frawley Road area. EPA approved grants of \$948,750.00 to East Ridge. Part of money to be used in Harris Hills-Frawley Road area annexed several years ago.

Waste water treatment plant expansion plans okayed.

Home-owned Bank of East Ridge began organization.

Lutheran School, destroyed by a fire in 1972, was rebuilt (\$360,000.00)

Sheraton Inn began construction.

Days Inn of America opened.

Roadway Inn almost completed.

New Krystal restaurant opened.

First Federal Savings and Loan had grand opening.

East Ridge's only garden center, the Four Seasons, opened.

One of the city's largest shopping centers, the East Ridge Center with Zayres, and Shoney's Big Boy restaurant opened.

Construction of Hungry Fisherman restaurant began-would have deck projected out over an eight acre man-made lake.

Construction began on East Ridge Community Hospital.

East Ridge Baptist Church built a new sanctuary.

East Ridge hosted the crew of Apollo XVII, Navy Captains Eugene Cernan, Ronald Evans and geologist Dr. Harrison (Jack) Schmitt (said likely to be the last three to set foot on the moon this century.) Stayed at Quality Inn South, motorcade along Ringgold Road.

The city purchased the one hundred and seventy-five acre Crow farm on Camp Jordan Road for \$150,000.00 for a recreational park, to be purchased with state matching grant fund.

**1974** - April - Sunshine law began. East Ridge commission began open meetings weekly every Thursday at 5:30pm.

Building permits issued for 15 single-family dwellings (432,850.00). Other new facilities: 15 duplexes, \$348,000.00; two apartment complexes \$1,256,000.00; six commercial buildings \$251,000.00; four new churches \$392,250.00; a one hundred and twenty bed nursing home, \$1,250,000.00

The commission announced intention to build a \$1 million community recreation area on the land purchased last December.

The bridge over Chickamauga Creek Highway 41-Ringgold Road widened.

May 1974, East Ridge Community Hospital, a 123-bed \$3.3 million facility was dedicated.

July 1974, East Ridge City Bank opened.

Red Food Store opened in the East Ridge Shopping Center, adjacent to Zayre's.

May 1974 - Liquor by the drink campaign began. Jack Jordan who resigned from the commission in August was the leader FOR drinks - Mack Franklin was the chairman AGAINST.

August 1974- Commissioner Jack Jordan resigned. Dan Haley appointed to fill the post vacated by Mr. Jordan.

October 1974 - commission voted to borrow \$250,000.00 for paving of streets in the Harris Hills-Frawley Road area.

**1975** - the newly elected commission: G. W. White, mayor, L. B. "Red" Hadden Jr., Commissioner of Public Utilities; Dan Hailey, Commissioner of Public Works; Headrick Witt, Commissioner of Public Welfare; and Charles H. Gass, Commissioner of Fire and Police.

On March 2, 1975, the East Ridge City Library held a celebration of its second anniversary. Head librarian was Margie Baumgardner; assistants Helen Edwards, Norine Bolt and Otella Murphy.

October 1974 - commission voted to borrow \$250,000.00 for paving of streets in the Harris Hills-Frawley Road area.

**1976** - Four-lane bridge (\$725,000.00) over Chickamauga Creek completed and opened.

\$2.5M wastewater treatment plant and collection system expansion completed.

Eleven new business permits issued, valuation \$1.1 million.

Twenty-six single-family units (\$673,000.00); five duplexes (\$117,000.00) completed. \$827,500.00 spend on alterations and improvements on businesses; total of 613 permits issued for valuation of \$3,024,656.00.

Added ladder truck for emergency service on traffic lights.

Contracts signed with Tennessee Law Enforcement Planning to upgrade police radio communications system.

Contracts signed with state to upgrade vehicular flow by installing traffic control lights at 12 locations, from Bachman Tubes to the interstate. Spring Creek Road and Mack Smith Road first two.

\$300,000.00 medical office building started construction adjacent to East Ridge Community Hospital.

Abe Shavin 's \$250,000.00 hardware store opened.

Rolling Ridge Skating Rink (\$280,000.00) and shopping complex opened.

Hardee's Hamburgers opened.

East Ridge Nazarene Church completed new building.

Stanley Heights Baptist Church built new educational building.

Weiner King, Oscar's BBQ, Save-A-Saturdays Construction and Claude Owens Floorcovering under construction.

**1977** – the newly elected commission: G. W. White, mayor; Dan Haley, Commissioner of Public Works; Charles Gass, Commissioner of Fire and Police; Headrick Witt, Commissioner of Public Welfare; and newcomer Fred Pruett, Commissioner of Public Utilities. Gene Drakeford remains City Administrator.

Planning for East Ridge City Park begun - to have six acre lake, beaches, picnic areas, and a playground. Contracts were signed to begin design of East Ridge City Park; park to be most comprehensive, multi-purpose recreation center in the area.

Ann Pruett new director of East Ridge City Library.

First traffic lights at Spring Creek and Ringgold Roads; and Mack Smith and Ringgold Roads.

New \$36,000.00 police radio system went into effect; allows officers to keep in touch with other officers.

\$700,000.00 Chickamauga Creek Bridge completed.

Bad winter-\$89,000.00 for street repairs.

Police Department added a two-car traffic control division.

Construction in East Ridge down from previous year. Thirty-three single family units (\$927,500.00) and six duplex units (\$143,000.00).

City Commission seeking help to find out who owns Spring Creek (flood control and cleanup?)

School zone warning blinkers to operate in nine school zone areas.

Cable TV work progressed.

Judy's Hamburgers, East Ridge City Bank branch, Dr. Richard Gibb's clinic, Paul Bailey's auto parts store and Ross Moseley's commercial building either completed or underway.

East Ridge Baptist Church, East Ridge Presbyterian Church and McBrien Road Church of God were expanded.

Plans for a branch of the East Ridge City Bank underway.

East Ridge Medical Center just in front of East Ridge Community Hospital opened in early summer.

Ground broken for \$500,000.00 construction on Chattanooga Funeral Home East.

**1978** - A referendum was set for the November general election for establishing yet-to-be named salary for the future mayors and commissioners for the first time in history. **DEFEATED.**

Another referendum, set for August 3, proposed to raise taxes to fund building a municipally owned fire department. (Earlier in the year, fifteen members of the privately owned East Ridge Fire Department walked out and formed the Pioneer Volunteer Fire Department, creating a struggle between the two departments as to whether East Ridge had a quality fire department.) The forces of the East Ridge Fire Department prevailed in the city election, three-to-one.

March 1978 - Cable TV arrived in East Ridge. First reports shows that approximately one-third of the city's residents signed up for the service.

The Better Housing Commission set out on a beautification project that, at times, saw entire blocks of substandard housing torn down.

**1981** - the newly elected commission: Brad Smith, mayor; L. B. "Red" Hadden, Vice Mayor and Commissioner of Public Works; Charles Gass, Commissioner of Fire and Police; Headrick Witt, Commissioner of Public Welfare; and Fred Pruett, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation. Alan Brewer, City Judge. Don Lusk, City Administrator.

April 1981 - Donald Lusk resigned, and in May, David Mays was appointed East Ridge City Administrator.

Inspection Department issued building permits for new residential construction in the amount of \$727,555.00 and approximately \$5.5 million for new commercial construction.

Industrial Development Board initiated process for the issuance of bonds for the funding of equipment and construction of a new Kroger store and a new Cracker Barrel restaurant.

Four more ball fields completed at Camp Jordan.  
Hospitality and Tourism Board created.

Sanitation Department began using newly constructed transfer station at Spring Creek Park.

\$65,000.00 spent to replace old and worn out machinery and equipment.

Ten new fire hydrants installed - city got reduction in fire insurance rating.

The East Ridge Spirits traveled to Houston, Texas to play in the Women's National Major Fastpitch Softball Tournament.

**1982** - City Judge Alan Brewer resigned his position, and the Board of Commissioners appointed William B. Luther to serve as City Judge (\$400.00 per month.)

The commission approved the sale of seven acres of land at Spring Creek Park to Humana, Inc. for \$26,751.00 per acre, the money to be used to build more ball fields at Camp Jordan Park (four new lighted and fenced

Public Utilities and Recreation, Headrick Witt, Commissioner of Public Works and L. B. "Red" Hadden, Commissioner of Public Works.

Completed \$190,000.00 road paving project which included all of McBrien and Greenslake Roads.

In April, the new park was officially named Camp Jordan Park, named for Major General Paul H. Jordan.

An Industrial Development Board of the City of East Ridge was created.

Three new traffic lights at Seminole Avenue and Ringgold Road; McBrien and Ringgold Roads, and John Ross and Ringgold Roads.

**1980** - mostly business as usual in East Ridge - streets resurfaced and paved, fire and police departments updated and new equipment added; police officers received more training, stores enjoyed good business, etc.

City attorney Jack Lusk retired and William Foster was appointed to serve as city attorney for the City of East Ridge.

June 1980 - the commission approved on first reading a resolution certifying the city's tax rate at \$0.70 per \$100 of property valuation - designed to produce same revenue as last year's tax rate of \$1.40 following reappraisal that generally increased property values.

The first phase of Camp Jordan Park was completed in the fall.

November 1980 - William Luther resigned his post as the City Judge. Alan Brewer was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Judge Luther.

Probably the highlight of the year was the Christmas Parade, welcoming Santa Claus to East Ridge.

The year 1980 ended on the note that there was a possibility of a tax increase in 1981 to offset the loss of \$45,000.00 in tax revenue.

**1981** - the newly elected commission: Brad Smith, mayor; L. B. "Red" Hadden, Vice Mayor and Commissioner of Public Works; Charles Gass, Commissioner of Fire and Police; Headrick Witt, Commissioner of Public Welfare; and Fred Pruett, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation. Alan Brewer, City Judge. Don Lusk, City Administrator.

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softball fields, a football field, two soccer fields and two more baseball diamonds were begun. Also parking lots were built and lighting fixtures installed along the park entrance. Drainage problems were also addressed).

Full-time deputy court clerk was hired.

A committee was appointed to study the possibility of changing the dates of elections.

City limits signs were posted on main thoroughfares.

New blue and white street markers were erected.

A personnel ordinance was passed to prepare an employee handbook, outlining policy for employment, sick leave, vacation, holidays, etc.

East Ridge Community Hospital expanded and renovated.

The Tennessee Division of the Environmental Protection Agency ordered the City of East Ridge to meet certain pollution standards by 1988. This prompted the mayor and commissioner to approve the first two sewer contracts to replace some sewer lines, and repair and clean out some others.

**1983** – the newly elected commission: Brad Smith, mayor; Headrick Witt, Commissioner of Public Welfare; Fred Pruett, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation; Charles Gass, Commissioner of Fire and Police; and newcomer, Donald Huskey, Commissioner of Public Works.

William Luther was elected City Judge.

William Foster was the City Attorney.

In May, an East Ridge Charter Committee was elected – first meeting on May 10, 1983.

Phase I of sewer rehabilitation project completed – cleaning, internal inspection, sealing and/or replacement of sewer lines. Phase II approved and bids/contracts awarded for work to start January 1984 – sewer line replacements.

A large sinkhole opened on Cline Road – 600 loads of dirt to fill.

June 1983 - a sewer user charge was approved by the commission to help fund some of these sewer repairs. This charge to be a temporary charge,

lasting from three to ten years, the money could only be used for sewer line repairs, which was ongoing the first time in the history of East Ridge a sewer charge was implemented – commission felt it was better than a tax increase. Needless to say, this was a most unpopular move.

Through the assistance of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and the Tourist Development Agency, \$21,000 appropriated to the City of East Ridge from the hotel-motel occupancy privilege tax to provide design and architectural fees for proposed \$400,000.00 multi-purpose pavilion at Camp Jordan Park.

Acquired new dump truck, two police vehicles, inspection vehicle, truck for the animal shelter and machine to help control mosquito problem.

A full time Recreation and Parks Superintendent was hired for Camp Jordan.

Front of park fenced, park road paved, two mile jogging trail built, picnic tables installed, two more baseball fields, two soccer fields and a football field built – and a memorial marker was erected.

The Bank of East Ridge plans expansion.

October 1983 – East Ridge charter panel discussed changing the election day to coincide with Hamilton County's general election.

**1984** - Commission approved (2<sup>nd</sup> reading) a one hundred and fifty unit apartment development on Eads and Frawley Roads despite residents' very vocal protests. Citizens' group planned suit against City of East Ridge to stop project if approved on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

Numerous commercial establishments and more than 75 single-family residences; new apartment development.

March 1984 - the \$20.00 recreation fee for non-residents upheld (non-residents pay this fee to participate in city athletic leagues.)

Several streets and bridges repaired. Applied for grant from EPA to upgrade sewage treatment plan.

Phase III of sewer rehabilitation plan – replacement work in areas of State Line Road, Ringgold Road and I-75.

Camp Jordan Park opened site for flying of radio-controlled airplanes. East Ridge Radio Control Club prepared a landing strip on the site.

Surveying completed on Frawley and Camp Jordan Roads in preparation for widening and resurfacing.

Special parking spaces and wheel chair ramps designated for handicapped persons.

Escaped tax increase – still \$0.70 per \$100.00 of property valuation. Budget less by \$59,406.00 than year before. If Red Bank increased their tax this year, East Ridge would have the lowest property tax in the state. No tax increase since 1980.

New addition started at police building.

Fire insurance rate improved with City's purchase of new fire engine and installation of additional water mains and fire hydrants.

Street Department sets up its own sign shop.

Concession stand and concrete bleachers for football and soccer field built at Camp Jordan Park.

First mayor of East Ridge, William Dupree, dies.

New medical office complex developed adjacent to East Ridge Hospital.

CentraCare Medical Center opened at McBrien Road and South Terrace.

Ryan's Family Steak House opened.

Save-a-Lot Discount Grocery opened.

Hancock Fabric opened.

The Scotchman and Texaco opened convenience store-service station operations.

Pioneer Ridge Estates constructed.

**1985** - Newly elected commissioners are: G. W. White, mayor; Fred Pruett, Vice-Mayor and Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation;

Charles Gass, Commissioner of Fire and Police; L. B. "Red" Hadden, Commissioner of Public Works; and newcomer Betty Cheek, Commissioner of Public Welfare – only the second woman to hold office on commission in East Ridge history.

East Ridge commissioners, on first reading, deny zoning property on Graston Avenue for triplex unit – East Ridge zoning regulations do not permit three family dwellings.

Also passed on first reading: ordinances to extend City's franchise for operating a private fire company.

Also voted to use Camp Jordan Park for July Fourth celebration.

In April 1985, the East Ridge Informers Group called for the removal of all incumbents (Group formed several years ago to "serve as an information circuit" between the voters and the candidates.) Claimed commission had allowed nepotism, taxation without consent and callous handling of their respective departments. Other concerns included proposed Eastgate Parkway, which would connect Ringgold Road at Frawley Road with Brainerd Road (bad traffic situation cited).

May 1985, East Ridge named an official Homecoming '86 community.

June 1985 - City of East Ridge and two police officers – as well as the driver of the vehicle being pursued– sued for \$2.3 million by husband of woman killed during the chase.

June 1985, Commissioners OK budget – Mayor White opposes raise of City Administrator.

Okayed July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, Shriner's annual barbecue outside East Ridge City Hall – Fireworks at Camp Jordan Park and American Legion Hall.

October 1985 - Residents of East Ridge fight regional skirmish in war on apartments against East Ridge City Hall and real estate developers. Cite increase in traffic and drainage problems). (More details newspaper clipping 10-85)

City of Chattanooga and East Ridge near dispute over sewage. Chattanooga claimed East Ridge and other municipalities signed agreement

in the '70s to tie sewage outfall to Chattanooga system. Administrator said no records yet found to support this.

City of Chattanooga wants East Ridge to join its sewer system with Moccasin Bend Sewage Treatment Plant.

Property on Ringgold Road rezoned for Motel Six development.  
August 1985 – Bank of East Ridge had grand opening celebration.

December 1985, – The East Ridge City Library moved from their quarters upstairs over the City Hall offices into their newly remodel quarters downstairs in the back of City Hall. The new library had a childrens' reading room, an interior design compatible for browsing and a front lobby complete with couch and chairs in the reading area, as well as being the only municipal building in the city with restroom facilities for handicapped persons. Library had 1,300 members, with dozens of others who frequent it on a sporadic basis. Inventory has grown to over 15,000 books.

East Ridge High School Boosters Club raising money to purchase Greyhound bus for use of the school.

1986 - East Ridge High School Lady Pioneers HCAC Middle School Basketball champions.

East Ridge High School presented the musical production, Oklahoma.

March 1986, the East Ridge City Library held an open house, dedicating the new library, which moved to its new location on the ground floor of the city hall building in December 1985.

August 1986 - Charles Gass was elected to the Hamilton Country District 8 Commission – resigned post as East Ridge commissioner in September.

August 18, 1986 – The East Ridge City Library board met for the purpose of organizing a Friends of the Library group.

September 1986 - William Haisten was appointed to fill the vacancy of the Commissioner of Fire and Police post.

Amendment to zoning ordinance allowing day care homes for elderly within city limits.

Rezoned property at 3302 Navajo Drive to apartment/townhouse district.

New Wendy's opened next to the closed Howard Johnson Inn.

Project 714-drug prevention and intervention program for schools-ERJH.

The first Shrine Circus came to Camp Jordan Park in September – part of proceeds given to city for park improvements.

Amendment passed to zoning ordinance allowing day care homes for elderly within the city limits.

**1987** - The newly elected commission: G. W. White, mayor; Betty Cheek, Commissioner of Public Welfare; Fred Pruett, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation; L. B. "Red" Hadden, Commissioner of Public Works; and William Haisten, Commissioner of Fire and Police.

East Ridge commissioners wanted to amend building codes.

Entered contracts with Tennessee Department of Transportation to resurface South Moore Road and ATT for rental of communication equipment for the City Hall and police department.

Dan Martino, a street preacher, was convicted of disorderly conduct in East Ridge.

March 3, 1987 – An East Ridge employee filed a suit against the East Ridge mayor and commissioners, claiming Mayor White and Commissioner Hadden constantly harassed her to make her resign after the mayor's attempt to fire her failed.

March 16, 1987 - McDonald's broke ground for a new restaurant at Ringgold Road and I-75. New restaurant replaced the first McDonald's restaurant ever opened in the Chattanooga area, which opened in September 1963.

June 1987 - East Ridge officials questioned about paving practices.  
Pioneer Ambulance Service requested to contract with the City for ambulance and back-up unit.

Approved study of CARTA's request for a \$44,676.00 subsidy to continue bus service in East Ridge - study to determine needs of East Ridge.

June 1987 - City urged to purchase computer system - East Ridge said to be the only municipality of its size in the state of Tennessee to date without its own computer system.

June 24, 1987 - East Ridge Mayor G. W. White and Public Works Commissioner L. B. "Red" Hadden were arrested by the FBI and formally charged with extortion for soliciting \$1,500.00 bribes in return for their votes for a controversial proposal to rezone a trailer park on Ringgold Road so a shopping center could be there. Released on \$10,000.00 bond.

June 26, 1987 - East Ridge citizens call for Mayor White and Commissioner Hadden to resign - they reject the call. More than 300 East Ridgers turned out for the commission meeting - termed "better draw than Riverbend."

June 30, 1987 - East Ridge police probe reports an officer invested in raided spa. Judy's Health Studio was raided by East Ridge police on May 7 and Erica Elliott was found guilty of assignation, possession of marijuana, cocaine and a firearm. Computerized list of all police officers in the East Ridge Police Department and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department found-list used to check to see if customers were not police officers. License revoked and business closed.

July 8, 1987 - a federal grand jury indicted Mayor White and Commissioner Hadden on extortion charges - trial date set for September 14 in federal court.

July 21, 1987 - East Ridge Fire and Police Commissioner William Haisten revealed he was offered a \$1,500.00 bribe to vote for the same controversial zoning change as Mayor White and Commissioner Hadden. He stated he had refused the offer.

September 14, 1987 - Mayor White and Commissioner Hadden extortion/bribery case trial began. Prosecutor claimed the mayor guaranteed the approval of the zoning change.

September 17, 1987 - Mayor White and Commissioner Hadden convicted of conspiracy and attempted extortion charges. Both face ouster suit if they don't resign.

September 19, 1987 - Commissioner Hadden resigns, and on September 25, 1987, Mayor White resigns after convictions. On September 25, 1987, Former Vice-Mayor Fred Pruett was chosen to fill the vacant position as Mayor. Commissioner of Public Welfare Betty Cheek became the Vice-Mayor, and Fire and Police Commissioner William Haisten became the city clerk and treasurer.

September 30, 1987 - John Temple and Mike Steele were appointed to fill the commission posts vacated by the resignations of Mr. White and Mr. Hadden. Mr. Temple became Commissioner of Public Works and Mr. Steel became Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation.

October 2, 1987 - Mayor G. W. White and Commissioner L. B. "Red" Hadden subpoenaed to appear before the federal grand jury - sentencing date set for October 29.

October 30, 1987 - G. W. White sentenced to four years in prison; L. B. "Red" Hadden sentenced six months. Convictions were not appealed. Mr. White to report the institution selected by the U. S. Bureau of Prisons on January 4, 1988.

Because Commissioner Hadden was deemed to have a lesser role in the wrongdoing, he was sentenced to six months in a jail-type or hospital facility with suggestion sentence be served in a halfway house in Hamilton County, (he suffered cardiovascular problems), to begin term on January 4.

November, 1987 - the rezoning of the mobile home park property that led to the convictions of extortion for White and Hadden, was approved to allow a shopping center to be built on the site.

December 10, 1987 - Ex-mayor White handed over a double-entry journal to the government - no comments on journal.

**1988** – January 5 - Preliminary plans for a new city hall being made include a large administrative area, including spacious lobby decked with greenery and a fountain; a new and enlarged library; courtroom/commission meeting room; kitchen and training/meeting rooms.

Bonds okayed for \$4 million to be used to build a new municipal building and to have a city-owned fire department.

January 29, 1988 – wanted to put a limited liquor-by-the-drink referendum on November ballot – state said law could not be amended for a local option to allow sale of mixed drinks only within a restricted area.

February 1988 -Ministers opposed to commissioners support of a city referendum on the ballot for allowing liquor-by-the-drink in East Ridge.

March 15, 1988 – Former East Ridge commissioner and present Hamilton County Commissioner Charles H. "Charlie" Gass indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of extorting \$3,000.00 from a developer in return for his vote on a controversial rezoning request to rezone property at 730 Germantown Circle so the developer could build the \$7 million Germantown Garden Apartments.

May 1, 1988 -Groundbreaking for East Ridge Crossing community shopping center at McBrien and Ringgold Roads – scheduled to open August 28.

July 15, 1988 -East Ridge Charter panel present four proposals for changing charter and asked city commissioners to let citizens vote in November referendum: 1) adopt policy of removal of city officials in the case of misconduct in accordance with state law; 2) allow expense reimbursement for East Ridge officials; 3) elect city commissioners and city judge by majority vote; 4) change judge's term from four years to eight years.

May 1, 1988 - Osborne Shopping Center held a grand opening of the newly renovated center known as Tennessee's first shopping center. (\$3 million modernization.)

May 24, 1988 - Prosecutor says former East Ridge police commissioner may be tied to other bribes - two occasions in 1986. Former mayor G. W. White and former commissioner L. B. "Red" Hadden, under grants of immunity, testify at trial of Mr. Gass - testified Mr. Gass said he favored the rezoning plan but took the bribe anyway.

May 27, 1988 - Former commissioner Gass jury split seven to five to convict; mistrial ruled. Second trial set for June 23.

June 8, 1988 - Hamilton County legislative delegation gave \$100,000.00 allocation from local four percent hotel/motel tax, which enabled city to make their planned improvements at Camp Jordan Park. Master plan - Camp Jordan Park Pavilion by Labor Day; group of picnic pavilions by end of summer; three more softball fields by spring of 1989; and a recreational multi-purpose building by summer of 1989. While emphasis is on plans to bring national tournaments to East Ridge, the priority is to "take care of the people of East Ridge first," Commissioner Steele said.

July 1988 - City commission voted to honor suggestions made by Charter Study Advisory Committee and place the following items on the November election ballot: 1) policy for removal of city officials in case of misconduct; 2) expense reimbursement for city officials incurred while conducting city business; 3) majority vote with runoff election to be held if no candidate draws 51% of the total number of votes; and 4) extend the city judge's term of office from four years to eight years.

August 1988 - Fred Pruett announced he was seeking full term as mayor of East Ridge. Wants East Ridge citizen on the Hamilton County Board of Education.

A \$2 million dollar sewer system overhaul announced.

September 1988 - Former East Ridge commissioner Charles Gass was sentenced to six months in prison for extorting bribe in rezoning case; Request denied that he be able to serve sentence in a halfway house.

August 26, 1988 - Work started on ampitheater in Camp Jordan Park project.

September 16, 1988 - Barbara Bush paid a visit to East Ridge to boost GOP support.

New East Ridge Post Office on Maxwell Road opened and dedicated.

October 1988 - Martha Atkins East Ridge nominee for Hamilton County School Board seat.

October 10, 1988 - East Ridge mayor accused of using city workers and equipment in construction of his new home. The mayor said he used and paid for city equipment. City Manager confirmed the mayor had cancelled checks to prove his statement.

October 12, 1988 - Contractors Gene Bevil and John W. Whitmire says Commissioner Haisten took money in rezoning matters that indicted Mayor G. W. White and Commissioners Charles Gass and L. B. "Red" Hadden.

Contractor pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting in extortion by making \$1,500.00 payment to Fire and Police Commissioner William Haisten. Haisten denied charge.

Contractors admit plot roles in aiding and abetting in extortion through the payment of money to East Ridge commissioners for their votes in getting two tracts of property rezoned in 1986 and 1987-plead guilty in corruption case. Whitmire perjury and aiding abetting in in extortion; Bevil extortion related charges, both in connection with property rezoning.

October 1988 - East Ridge Junior High School embroiled in controversy over cheerleading selection process.

October 28, 1988 - Liquor-by-the-drink hot topic at East Ridge candidate forum.

November 9, 1988 - newly elected commissioners: Fred Pruett, Mayor; Commissioner of Fire and Police, Darwin Branam; Commissioner of Public Works, John Temple; Commissioner of Public Welfare, Betty Cheek; and Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation, Mike Steele.

Charter study recommendations on ballot passed: ouster provision, majority vote, and extending terms of city judge.

December 1988 - East Ridge commission voted to OK \$4 million dollar bonds for a new city hall and a city-owned fire department.

December 17, 1988 - Contractors Whitmire and Bevil receive light sentences in former police chief extortion case. Both received four months in prison, three year suspended sentences and 200 hours of community service. Prison terms began December 30.

Camp Jordan - what was once a training ground for Civil War soldiers is now a 175-acre recreational park that provides lighted fields for soccer, rugby, football, baseball, cricket; a two-mile lighted walking/jogging track; BMX racing track; radio-controlled airplane field; outdoor ampitheater under construction; and picnic pavilions.

**1989** - January - William C. Haisten, former East Ridge Commissioner of Fire and Police, indicted by federal grand jury on charges of extortion. In March, a U. S. Judge dismissed the charges against Haisten.

McBrien Elementary School celebrated Founder's Day.

Armando's opened in East Ridge.

New road to Camp Jordan Park paved.

Maxwellaires appeared at Camp Jordan Park.

Ground was broken for a new medical specialist office in 3600 block of Ringgold Road-Dr. Richard Ely, foot and ankle specialist.

First town meeting brings East Ridge and Hamilton County officials together for a question-and-answer session by East Ridge citizens

Funds allocated by Hamilton County hotel/motel tax to East Ridge received-\$1M to be used for improvements at Camp Jordan Park.

Outdoor stage/ampitheater completed at Camp Jordan Park.

Life Care Center of East Ridge expanded.

Clayton Payne, East Ridge Humane Society animal warden, honored by the American Humane Association for ten years meritorious service.

March 24, 1989 - Commission denies rezoning requests on Lisa and Gail Drive; and denies request to rezone from residential to business offices at Marlboro and South Terrace; okays request for condominiums between Bragg Reservation and Sheridan Road on Missionary Road.

April 1989 - Alan Richards hired as police chief.

June 1989 - Commission considers dropping bus service in East Ridge (East Ridge paid subsidy to CARTA each year to provide bus service.) Lack of riders cited.

June 29, 1989 - East Ridge commission gave final approval to architects' plans for a new \$1.5 million city hall.

June 8, 1989 - East Ridge commissioners stopped funding for bus service due to lack of patronage - saving the city the \$53,868 subsidy fee.

July 1989 - East Ridge City Commissioners approved a \$0.21 property tax increase to fund new budget (countywide reappraisal had lowered the former \$0.70 tax rate to \$0.54), bringing the new tax rate to \$0.75 per \$100 property valuation.

August 1989 - First annual East Ridge Sparkle Day - community clean up.

Several groups vied for ownership of proposed East Ridge radio station.

East Ridge All Stars team of nine-year-olds won state championship.  
East Ridge City Library began storytelling program for Kindergarten through age six.

September 7, 1989 - Ceiling height prohibits certification of East Ridge jail.

Official groundbreaking ceremony for the new city hall held.

Labor Day special ribbon-cutting ceremony for new Camp Jordan amphitheater.

September 15, 1989 - Area residents presented petition to the City Commission complaining about Andrew Chastain's junk-filled yard (a man who had been subject of legal action in Catoosa County, Georgia and Chattanooga, Tennessee, for the same offence) - Chastain cited to appear before Fair Housing Commission.

September 1989 - County operated vans offered to East Ridgers in aftermath of Carta discontinuing bus service.

Larry Holland presented Officer of the Year award by the East Ridge Optimist Club.

Possibility of East Ridge students being bussed to other schools arose - parents were upset. Anna B. Lacey had been closed, even though East Ridge schools were overcrowded. Ten additional classrooms planned for Spring Creek Elementary School.

Andrew Chastain ordered by Better Housing Board to clean up his yard-or else. He appealed this decision.

Twenty-four churches were listed in the November 1989 church guide.

**1990** - January - East Ridge commissioners consider changing the present commission system to the council system. Council system would follow style, though not motivation, of court-imposed council government forced on the City of Chattanooga after lawsuit by black voters. East Ridge changes arose from concerns over personnel actions - council system would remove personal responsibility from administration of city departments to decision making by a council system.

Parker's Golf and Trophy Shop opened.

April 18, 1990 - Fired East Ridge employee charges sexual harassment and violation of civil rights in a suit filed against the City of East Ridge, the city administrator, mayor and members of the City Commission - the second suit filed against the city by this employee.

May 1990 -Charter Study Committee recommends complete review and revision of city charter-suggested commissioners become legislative body with strong city manager form of government.

May 1990 - State of Tennessee granted a perpetual easement for access to Camp Jordan Park.

Telescripps Cable donated \$3,000.00 to assist flood victims in East Ridge.

June 1990 - Part of East Ridge's Camp Jordan Park proposed for potential new elementary school - urged by County Commissioner Curtis Adams to forget the idea.

June 21, 1990 - Commissioner of Public Works, John Temple, who has served since September 1987, resigned to take a new job in South Carolina.

June 19, 1990 - Property tax vote delayed (increase to purchase the privately owned fire department that now serves city). Users fee increased (applied to water bills).

July 13, 1990 - The East Ridge City Commission appointed Frank Reed to fill the post of Commissioner of Public Works vacated by John Temple.

Commission agreed to reimburse current management of East Ridge Fire Department to continue service while purchase agreement renegotiated.

July 1990 - Sub Connections opened at 1441 North Smith Road.

August 1990 - City of East Ridge passed a resolution to adopt the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division of Fort Campbell, Kentucky as one of the city's preferred military units.

August 1990 - Five mile military convoy from Fort Campbell, Kentucky to Jacksonville, Florida on their way to the Persian Gulf comes through East Ridge. Over 1,500 people gathered at overpasses and alongside interstate to greet troops with food and support. An East Ridge City Limits sign was taken by the soldiers and carried to the Persian Gulf - they sent back photos of the sign in and around their tent.

October 7, 1990- East Ridge's newly constructed City Hall officially opened on this day with an open house to dedicate the new building.

November 1990 - Frank Reed was the only clear winner in the East Ridge election -top two vote getters in other four posts in December 11 runoff.

December 1990 - Newly elected officials: Don Huskey, Mayor; Frank Carpenter, Commissioner of Fire and Police; Mike Steel, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation; Ralph Hooper, Commissioner of Public Welfare, Health and Sanitation; and Frank Reed, Commissioner of Public Works. Took oath of office December 24, 1990.

East Ridge City Commission announced the new road leading into Camp Jordan Park would be named the Fred Pruett Parkway and dedicated on December 14.

**1991** -- January - East Ridge High School football coach, Raymond James, dies.

February 8, 1991 -The East Ridge City Library opened in the library facilities in the new East Ridge City Hall building – at last, a real library – with a new computerized circulation system, separate departments for pre-school/kindergartners and junior readers, study carrels, reading area, conference table, larger office and more room.

Recent survey named East Ridge as one of the best small town in Tennessee in which to live.

Camp Jordan Park said to have some of the finest soccer fields and baseball/softball fields not only in Hamilton County but in the southeast.

February 16, 1991 - Andrew Chastain threatened suit against City of East Ridge after house on Oakdale Avenue demolished (Chastain had been cited to court more than once for having the yard and house so full of junk it was an eyesore as well as a health hazard).

May 1991 – According to a Hamilton County lawsuit, Mayor Don Huskey expected a \$25,000 kickback for his role in persuading the East Ridge commissioners to finance a \$48,000.00 fund-raising project for senior citizens. Complaint claimed mayor agreed to have East Ridge purchase an original oil painting and 4,000 prints for \$48,000. In turn, the city was to sell the prints and profits would go to senior citizens organization. They said that later, the mayor came to them with another “proposal” – and after they refused to pay a “thinly disguised bribe”, the mayor stopped the East Ridge officials from buying the painting and prints.

May 1991 – Move underway to name East Ridge Stadium for Coach Raymond James.

June 1991 – East Ridge Mayor Don Huskey filed for bankruptcy – planned to keep job as mayor.

June 6, 1991 - A disabled former employee of East Ridge filed a civil suit in federal court seeking \$260,000.00 in damages from the city, city commissioners and the personnel director on a claim he was physically assaulted by the City Administrator in October 1990.

July 6, 1991 – The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of East Ridge celebration held at Camp Jordan Park for the community, with cake, East Ridge history exhibit, entertainment, food, fireworks, etc.

July 10, 1991 - East Ridge City Commission agreed to finalize the city's purchase of its privately owned fire department after more than two years of negotiations.

**1992 – March** - Evidence of possible forgery and bid irregularities surfaced along a paper trail leading from East Ridge Police Department to an Alabama car dealer who sold East Ridge ten police cars.

October 1991 -Police Chief Alan Richards was fired – Frank Carpenter and Mike Steel voted to oust him. When asked his reasons, Commissioner Carpenter responded that he did not have to give reason for firing an at-will employee. East Ridge City Hall received more than one hundred and forty calls from citizens protesting the firing.

East Ridge Police Chief Alan Richards not sure whether he was fired or not at commission meeting. Firing possibly connected to coming hearing on police officer, a captain facing fifteen charges in connection with his role in the suspect purchase of ten police cars.

The East Ridge Police cleaned out his desk and went home-planned to pursue matter through the courts to get some sort of declaratory action.

October 9, 1991 - The East Ridge City Commission re-hired fired Police Chief Alan Richards (Richards' approval rating was more than 90%).

East Ridge commissioners end tenure in controversy – two lawsuits over improvements at Camp Jordan; ongoing investigation into questionable practices involving purchase of police cars; plans for takeover of local fire department in legal battle; many improvements recommended by internal audit not fully implemented; and the firing and re-hiring of Police Chief Alan Richards.

November 1991 - East Ridge voters will elect a new City Council in November – not commissioners – will serve two year terms.

East Ridge lawsuit asks for \$250,000.00 for alleged police beating in domestic dispute.

Linen company sues East Ridge over contract – said entered contract with East Ridge in 1991 to supply uniforms to East Ridge police officers – said they supplied uniforms but payment in arrears.

November 1992 – Newly elected commission: Jack Sharp, Mayor; Steve Fine, Commissioner of Fire and Police; Bob Johnson, Commissioner of Public Works; Ralph Hooper, Commissioner of Public Welfare, Health and Sanitation; and James “Cotton” Patterson, Commissioner of Public Utilities and Recreation.

**1993** - April – East Ridge Animal Shelter employee arrested and charged with allegedly engaging in sexual conduct with two minors.

April 13, 1993 - East Ridge Council debated approving outdoor flea market after Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission okayed rezoning.

May 14, 1993 -East Ridge City Council approved ordinance that would allow the city to purchase the fire department from the private franchise presently serving East Ridge.

May 14, 1993 - For the second time in seven months, East Ridge Police Chief Alan Richards was fired by City Manager Mike Nettles, effective immediately – reason described as budget overruns and poor department morale. Richards said firing was retaliation over information he had gathered on Mr. Nettles in Florida (Nettles was fired in Milton, FL for

approving cost overruns. He had been arrested for writing bad checks in 1982, and had two criminal warrants serviced for writing bad checks, etc. through 1986. Commissioner James "Cotton" Patterson had supposedly investigated the background and checked out Mr. Nettles as "A-1". Richard's firing was protested by some East Ridge citizens and praised by others. The East Ridge Police Chaplain resigned. The Optimist Club honored Chief Richards.

June 25, 1993 - -East Ridge property tax \$0.02 less per \$100 of assessed valuation than in 1992 because of statewide reappraisal - \$1.00 per \$100.00.

Belt-tightening, according to the East Ridge City Manager, is what enabled the council to pass a budget that was less than the year before.

Council gave preliminary approval to new budget that included money to supplement the \$380,000.00 then spent for contracted fire protection. Money would be applied to start-up and operation of new city fire department.

July 8, 1992 -East Ridge karate instructor Jeff Wolf found shot to death in apparent car-jacking at Ringgold and Spring Creek Roads - victim of a three-hour area crime spree.

July 15, 1993 - Bus serviced returned to East Ridge in the form of a free shuttle, Gateway to Chattanooga, that transported people to and from the Tennessee Aquarium on weekends - funded by the Tourist Development Agency.

July 20, 1993 - East Ridge City Council announced they had decided to change the name from Fred Pruett Parkway to Camp Jordan Parkway. Move provoked defense and criticism.

July 24, 1993 - Ground was broken for a new school at Spring Creek Elementary School on Spring Creek Road - K to 5 school to be completed 8-94.

August 26, 1993 - Senior citizens group who had been meeting in the old East Ridge City Hall building got up petition to save the building -

McBrien Elementary School also upset that building will be demolished and a new fire hall, police building and jail to be built. McBrien Elementary School overcrowded and were holding some classes in the building.

September 1993 -Council presented idea of swapping the old town hall property for land the Hamilton County school system owned along Ringgold Road to construct police-fire station-jail.

October 1993 -City of East Ridge - McBrien land swap called good for all by Asst. Superintendent Jim Monroe.

East Ridge City Council approved funding for two fire engines. Property swap with McBrien School finalized in mid-October.

November 1993 -Complete with three new fire trucks, temporary fire hall and volunteer and full-time fire fighters, East Ridge Fire Department a reality. (Temporary location on Greenslake Road while new building being constructed on Ringgold Road.) Second fire station hoped for in a few years.

December 1993 - East Ridge High School began standardized dress code. Students protested. Twenty-nine students suspended. Education Board dismissed students' complaints.

December 17, 1993 - Atlanta firm Surgical Health Corporation to build new surgery center across from East Ridge Hospital.

When fire and police building completed, old police station, court and jail building to be sold at auction; money generated to go toward construction of a new senior citizen and youth facility, to be located on west side of parking lot between the new city hall and the old city hall. Expected to be completed in 1995. Old city hall to be demolished in 1994.

**1994 - February** -East Ridge Assistant Police Chief Bill Muse officially named Police Chief.

February 11, 1994 - East Ridge officials may have to tear up more than \$86,000.00 worth of taxpayer dollars because tennis court surface inside Camp Jordan Arena purchased without approval of previous governing body.

February 13, 1994 - County Commissioner Curtis Adams urged construction of a playground similar to Collegedale's Imagination Station at the old East Ridge City Hall site.

East Ridge Mayor Jack Sharp ran for state 30<sup>th</sup> district seat.

East Ridge approved contract to begin work on proposed Ringgold Road fire hall/police station complex.

June 1994 - East Ridge planned development of projects such as storage building at Camp Jordan Arena, a new community center near City Hall and police and fire complex, without tax increase.

City expenditures of previous commission questioned. City enacted a new system of purchasing policies.

November 8, 1994 - East Ridge's Greenway project on South Chickamauga Creek began - agreement struck with Osborne Enterprises permitting greenway to run from the Brainerd Levee near Eastgate Mall, under Interstate 75 and to Camp Jordan Park.

November, 1994 - East Ridge playground under construction - to be called Pioneer Frontier - East Ridge residents of all ages worked on the project.

Pioneer Frontier, East Ridge's new creative playground on Tombras Avenue held grand opening ceremonies.

November 9, 1994 - Newly elected council: Bob Johnson, Mayor; Steve Fine, Ralph Hooper, James "Cotton" Patterson, and Marcia Heath.

Former East Ridge Mayor Jack Sharp elected as Republican to 30<sup>th</sup> District seat in Tennessee House of Representatives.

Georgia (Catoosa County) filed a lawsuit against the City of East Ridge for water quality violation resulting from sewage system overflows - East Ridge City Manager Mike Nettles wrote to Georgians telling them of East Ridge's decision to drop their fourteen residences from the East Ridge sewer system on March 15, 1995.

**1995 - January**-East Ridge City Council delayed decision on cutting Georgia sewer services.

February 1995 -East Ridge near completion of Fire and Police Services complex. Plans in works to construct second fire station along eastern edge of the city, near I-14, in 1997.

City commissioned study of storm water program – cost to revamp East Ridge's drainage facilities to bring them in compliance with state guidelines like to cost several million dollars. No tax increase planned - raise funds by user fee possible.

May 1995 -Local homeless woman's body found floating in Chickamauga Creek.

U. S. Representative Zach Wamp sought federal funding for East Ridge to purchase and move homes on Springvale Road because of flooding (five floods in last three years).

East Ridge City Council approved bids from contractors to work on several areas of East Ridge with severe drainage problems – bids beginning of work on a \$10 million storm water project to alleviate city's drainage problems.

East Ridge City Council approved addition of five fire hydrants in city.

East Ridge City Council approved of sale of outdated bleachers to raise money for permanent bleachers for East Ridge's new community center now under construction.

May 1995 -East Ridge City Council considers proposal to charge a garbage collection fee to free up city dollars to pay local costs for fixing drainage problems.

June 9, 1995 – East Ridge City Council passed on first reading a proposed ordinance that would impose a \$9.00 per month garbage collection fee to help pay for storm water project – fee to end when debt is repaid.

July 4, 1995 -Celebration of East Ridge's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday held at Camp Jordan Park – all day celebration with fireworks finale.

October 1995 – East Ridge received government grant to buy 16 homes in the Chickamauga Creek flood plain.

A \$12 Million bond issue considered to fund storm water/drainage/flood work.

**1996 - February** – City of East Ridge gives construction company second chance to prove itself by reinstating cancelled contract on building community center.

February 27, 1996 - Federal and state agencies agreed to pay two-thirds of the \$900,000.00 the City of East Ridge needs to buy out sixteen homeowners whose Springvale Road property lies in the flood plain.

July 16, 1996 - In a first for the Chattanooga area, the City of East Ridge began ouster proceedings to remove a councilman – James “Cotton” Patterson – from his post. A petition was filed in Chancery Court alleging sexual misconduct and abuse of his office as a councilman – said he “used his office in an attempt to obtain sexual gratification and for the purpose of sexual harassment, by physically grabbing a City of East Ridge employee and kissing her without her consent and against her wishes” – and other similar charges.

August 1, 1996 – Ex-East Ridge Police Chief Alan Richards’s wrongful discharge suit against the City of East Ridge was dismissed in District Court.

August 9, 1996 - The East Ridge City Council announced it was satisfied with the present charter.

August 29, 1996 - The East Ridge City Council met in a closed-door session (at the state’s request) with auditors from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury Office, Division of Municipal Audit, who recently completed an investigation of the city’s books. Each council member had a week to respond to the auditors’ findings – final results of audit to be made public after another two weeks.

August 11, 1996 - Former East Ridge Fire and Police Commissioner William C. Haisten passed away.

September 13, 1996 -The East Ridge City Council meeting began with another controversy involving the city’s police department and city

politics. It was voted to send an East Ridge police captain a letter of reprimand for "driving a candidate who is seeking public office in the city to the Hamilton County Election Commission so the candidate could register for the November election.

Councilman James "Cotton" Patterson, two months after petition for his ouster filed in Chancery Court, fights council ouster bid by "emphatically and strongly" denying that he had violated Tennessee law. His attorney filed answer to the petition in Chancery Court.

September 13, 1996 - Confidential audit findings leaked to press. Whodunnit???

September 15, 1996 - State auditors plan to refer to the district attorney for criminal or civil charges the possible unauthorized sale of personal leave time back to the City of East Ridge by City Manager Mike Nettles - investigation revealed Mr. Nettles was paid almost \$18,000.00 for personal unused leave over a three-year period. Mr. Nettles sold unused leave time over a three-year period, but contract reportedly only authorized sale of unused leave only upon his termination. Auditors found this in violation of state law.

September 27, 1996 - If Hamilton County voters would approve a half-cent sales tax in November, citizens of East Ridge could get a property tax cut of ten percent.

October 3, 1996 - East Ridge officials disputed state auditors findings.

October 5, 1996 - While mayor and two councilmen were out of town on city business, Councilmen James "Cotton" Patterson and Ralph Hooper presided over their own meeting, calling it a "concerned citizens meeting." Everyone present was given a copy of itemized list of findings from the state audit - announced a call meeting for the next week to present petition asking for ouster of city officials with whom they were displeased.

November 8, 1996 - East Ridge postponed the planned recycling center amid protests over the proposed location of center behind City Hall and near McBrien School - traffic and odor main concerns.

December 5, 1996 – East Ridge jail receives certification.

Newly Elected Council – Bob Johnson, Mayor; Bob Summit, Vince Dean, Steve Fine and Marcia Heath.

**1997 - January** – The East Ridge City Council settled Georgia sewer dispute – paid total of \$500,000.00.

January 22, 1997 - East Ridge Councilman Bobby Summitt's salary from the City of East Ridge to be garnished by Hamilton County General Session's for a debt he owed the court from 1988.

February 1997 – East Ridge police chief demoted himself to Warrant Detective with the City's court because of what he termed "philosophical differences" with new City Council members.

February 14, 1997 - The East Ridge City Council fired City Manager Mike Nettles – Mr. Nettles was immediately escorted from the council chamber to collect his belongings from his office. The City Attorney had been asked to pursue legal action against Mr. Nettles because of the more than \$17,000.00 he received in the sale to the city of unused leave, to which Tennessee auditors said he was not entitled.

February 24, 1997 - East Ridge Councilman Bobby Summit reported at council meeting his debt that led to his salary being garnished was resolved.

February 28, 1997 - An East Ridge citizen, Ray Slatton, asked for the resignation of Mayor Bob Johnson at the regular meeting of the City Council. Controversy was over a possible misdemeanor when an unlicensed contractor won a project bid from the city rather than Mr. Slatton's Riverbend Construction Company – said no question this was in violation of the law.

March 26, 1997 – East Ridge ex-Mayor Fred Pruett was appointed unanimously by the City Council as interim City Manager, relieving Finance Director David Mays from the responsibility of performing two jobs. Appointment to run until new city manager can be hired.

April 25, 1997 – East Ridge Mayor Bob Johnson and Councilman Steve Fine both resigned abruptly from the East Ridge City Council in a surprise move. Debbie Triplett was immediately appointed to a seat on the council. Ralph Hooper (vice-mayor) will assume mayor's duties.

Bill Haskew was appointed to fill the vacant council position vacated by Ralph Hooper, who moved into the Mayor's post.

May 1997 – Columnist and humorist Bill Casteel declared the East Ridge City Council to be ideal for a situation comedy.

July 17, 1997 - – Former East Ridge Councilman James "Cotton" Patterson filed a lawsuit against the City of East Ridge for \$10 Million, claiming his efforts to clean up city government were met with a campaign of character assassination – that as a result of his complaints about the City of East Ridge and its government, a campaign of harassment and retaliation begin against him over a period of months.

August 28, 1997 – the East Ridge City Council voted to raise property tax in the city by \$0.30 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation – at the same time, they did away with the city's controversial garbage collection fee. Tax raised to \$1.20 per \$100.00.

The East Ridge City Council voted to put a half-cent sales tax referendum on the next election ballot. Last property tax increase in 1990 – then they were lowered in 1993.

September 12, 1997 – The East Ridge City Council hired James Monroe – but move was surprise to two council members. Apparently three council members met in a councilman's home and decided on the move. (Mr. Monroe does not live in East Ridge at the present.)

The East Ridge City Council upheld vote to hire James Monroe as East Ridge's new City Manager. Many citizens apparently outraged - say some members of the Council had pushed this matter through.

September 1997 - The East Ridge City Council to decide acceptance of a \$17.9 Million federal grant to help fund a flood control project. City of East Ridge would have to match 25% of the total cost. Officials weighing options to raise the money.

September 30, 1997 - A former part-time groundskeeper for the City of East Ridge, brought a lawsuit against the City of East Ridge, The East Ridge City Council, former city manager Mike Nettles, former acting city manager David Mays, former mayor Bob Johnson, current mayor Ralph Hooper and former council members Steve Fine, Marcia Heath and James "Cotton" Patterson - asks judgment for lost wages and benefits as well as damages for "mental anguish, humiliation and embarrassment, injury to personal dignity and emotional distress."

October 1997 - Halloween Tellabration for all ages presented at the East Ridge City Library by professional storytellers.

October 1997 - East Ridge City Council members voted to commit more than \$6 Million in matching government funds for a federal flood control project.

December 12, 1997 - The East Ridge City Council fired its new city manager, James Monroe, only three months after he was hired to replace former city manager, Mike Nettles, who was fired only ten months ago - citing various violations of his contract. One of the violations of Mr. Monroe was that he had not set up residence in East Ridge within ninety days of his hire date - another violation, Mr. Monroe agreed, without permission of the City Council, to take over the Spring Creek Solid Waste Transfer Station from Hamilton County in January. After investigation by the city attorney, it was found the firing of Mr. Monroe was justified.

**1998 - January** - The East Ridge chaplain said his opposition to beer sales in East Ridge endangered his job and would not be surprised to see another firing by city councilman at the next meeting.

January 1998 - East Ridge Mayor Ralph Hooper cut short a special council meeting after residents protested an ordinance that would allow beer to be sold at Camp Jordan Park.

Several ministers charged that Mayor Hooper denied citizens a chance to speak during the council meeting.

January 24, 1998 - East Ridge mayor convinced that liquor is the solution to the city's financial problems. Liquor-by-the-drink and beer sales at Camp Jordan Park would bring in revenue for the city - East Ridge has always voted NO to allowing the sale of liquor in the city.

A proposed amendment to allow beer sales at Camp Jordan Park died for lack of a motion – a proposal that had sparked controversy among many citizens.

East Ridge financial needs: \$1.6 million bond to pay for collapsed sanitary sewer trunk line under I-24; replacement of city's incinerator would cost more than \$250,000.00; city will need to pay part of a \$12 million bond next year for storm water project; pending council approval, city will have to pay \$5.6 million within twenty years for 370 homes to be elevated in effort to avoid flooding; East Ridge legally required to give Catoosa County, Georgia \$250,000.00 to help rehabilitate sewer system that allegedly overflowed there; may have to install a four-million gallon sewer inflow holding tank that will cost \$3.3 million.

February 17, 1998 – The East Ridge City Council unanimously voted to hire Wayne Hamill as the town's permanent city manager. Mr. Hamill had been with the city for ten years and worked in government more than twenty-five years.

April 1998 – East Ridge to make difficult decision this month about flood control – one that could hurt several council members in this election year. Tax increase might be only choice.

April 18, 1998 – A parking ticket and angry words between the East Ridge court clerk and a UTC tutor led to the arrest of the UTC staffer, who was found guilty of contempt of court and fined \$10.00 plus court costs – dismissal appeal was filed in June.

April 23, 1998 - East Ridge City Manager Wayne Hamill asked the City Council to rein in Vice Mayor Bobby Summitt who badgered Mr. Hamill to fire Police Chief Joe Sebenick and two other city officials. Mr. Hamill not the first city manager to complain the vice-mayor had thrown his weight around. Jim Monroe, former city manager, stated the vice-mayor ordered him to unlawfully hire someone. Council voted to wait to decide on censure of the vice-mayor who could be ousted from the council if he continued to direct the city manager on personnel issues.

April 24, 1998 – Council delays vote on censure of vice-mayor.

April 24, 1998 - East Ridge Mayor Hooper said any books containing sexual suggestions should be thrown out of the East Ridge City Library – wanted everything in the library checked out for sexually oriented content – stated “if they wanted to read those books, they’d have to get them in school and not at the library.” This was prompted by recent debate on students accessing pornographic sites from the Chattanooga Hamilton County Bicentennial Library’s internet site. City attorney stated he believed the council could vote to recommend its librarians censure sexually suggestive books.

Tennessee Senate to consider a bill that would allow the sale of fireworks within the city limits of East Ridge – would bring in needed additional revenue.

June 1998 –East Ridge Vice Mayor Bobby Summitt was arrested by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and charged with insurance fraud, perjury and official misconduct. Under investigation for falsifying his dental records in an attempt to have the bills paid by the city’s insurance company. He was indicted on June 25, 1998.

June 23, 1998 - An East Ridge man was burned after a fire bomb intended for a police officer blew up in his car on Ringgold Road. He was treated and released to the custody of East Ridge Police Chief Joe Sebenick.

June 25, 1998 - East Ridge vice-mayor agreed to resign from the East Ridge City Council in exchange for possibly having criminal charges dropped from his record. Criminal Court Judge Rebecca Stern insisted on the resignation because the state’s evidence against him was strong and compelling.

July 10, 1998 - Police salaries in East Ridge stir contention – salaries are below the starting salaries in other areas, such as Red Bank and Chattanooga. Study of workers’ pay and job responsibilities to provide guidelines on which positions need adjustment in classification, job description and salary.

July 10, 1998 - City of East Ridge to assist Red Bank with sewer repair by lending equipment.

July 19, 1998 – East Ridge vice-mayor arraigned in Hamilton County Criminal Court on charges of insurance fraud, perjury and official misconduct.

July 21, 1998 - East Ridge City Council submitted papers to the election commission to get legal liquor in a referendum on the November ballot.

Property tax remained the same.

Employees' raises on hold until study of workers' pay and job responsibilities completed. Study to provide guidelines on which positions need adjustments in classification, job descriptions and salary.

An East Ridge Storm Water Management Department was created to handle continual maintenance of city's water/drainage problems.

Hamilton County relinquished control of the Spring Creek Transfer Station for solid waste to the City of East Ridge.

July 24, 1998 - East Ridge City Attorney Cris Helton filed petition for ouster against Vice Mayor Bobby Summitt in Hamilton County Chancery Court – Mayor Summitt indicted on charges of insurance fraud, perjury and official misconduct in falsifying his dental bills. Trial set for September 14.

September 19, 1998 – Chattanooga and East Ridge Police Departments investigated the case of twenty-six guns missing from the evidence room of the East Ridge Police Department – the guns were last seen on June 25 in the evidence room and the police learned they were missing during a routine audit on August 21. East Ridge Police Chief Joe Sebenick said planned to be as hard as the law allowed on the person who stole the guns. The guns were later found in a storage room in the police building on September 19.

Fire and Police Department employees received raises of up to twenty-five percent in September. East Ridge Fire and Police Department employees reportedly were some of the lowest paid fire and police employees in the county. Citizens at council meeting applauded the move.

September 24, 1998 - Chattanooga and East Ridge agreed to make the final link of a bike and walking trail that would connect the two cities from the Brainerd levee to Camp Jordan Park. Ultimate goal to have greenway extend from Tennessee Riverpark to the Chickamauga Battlefield in Georgia.

October 31, 1998 - East Ridge Winter Soccer League questioned by the city manager - possible breach of contract - city asked to audit books. League did not provide the city with copies of its 1099 forms.

Mayor Hooper's request to give city employees an across-the-board four percent pay raise rejected by council - to wait until salary classification completed.

October 24, 1998 - East Ridge City Council members finalized the contract of City Manager James Monroe even as they awaited an opinion from the state attorney general about the controversial manner in which he was hired. Panel vote for hiring Mr. Monroe was split 3-2. Benefits package for Mr. Monroe under consideration also not agreed on by all panel members.

November 13, 1998 - The East Ridge City Council voted a pay raise for city employees, opting not to wait for results of classification comparison study which could possibly be a year away. Employees earning more than \$30,000.00 received a raise of three percent; those earning less than that amount received a raise of four percent.

East Ridge Police Chief Joe Sebenick conducted a major restructuring of his department, which he and City Council members agreed was badly needed.

December 11, 1998 - East Ridge officials of the city's baseball and softball leagues turned over control to the City of East Ridge - possibly a result of a rumor that the city would take over everything at Camp Jordan Park - rumors began when the city manager refused to sign a lease contract for Camp Jordan Arena with the Youth Soccer Association - violated their contract by not supplying the city with a tax form divulging its earnings. Association volunteer leaders later agreed to let the city oversee its financial dealings while volunteers would run other aspects of the program.

James "Cotton" Patterson offered to pay the city if the officials would allow him to operate the league.

**1999** - The East Ridge City Council issued mandate that the city manager could no longer talk to media or issue press releases without notifying members of the City Council – in order to keep council at least as informed as the press of the goings-on in the city.

The East Ridge City Council approved several needed resolutions setting policies for the city manager to follow (when city changed from Commission Government to Council-Manager form of government, some of the old policies remaining confusing.) The City Manager's contract was not renewed.

After several weeks of squabbling over local sports leagues, some East Ridge citizens call for the East Ridge City Council to fire the current city manager. When volunteers of East Ridge's baseball and softball program gave over financial operations to the East Ridge city government, some citizens blamed the city manager.

Due to the 90-day rule in which the City Council cannot take action on a city manager within 90 days of an election, city officials said no plans to discipline the city manager, but 90-day rule being kept in mind.

March 24, 1999 – East Ridge City Manager on medical leave for almost a month – physician said he was suffering from a "stress-related" illness, and needed more time to be evaluated. City Council expected soon to renegotiate the city manager's contract, which had expired, and his severance offer to include smaller severance package. The city manager objected – said he would not work without an agreement. Acting City Manager David Mays said Mr. Hamill had not been terminated – only his contract had expired.

April 1, 1999 – East Ridge City Manager expected to return to work on a limited schedule. Acting City Manager David Mays said the City Manager could work without a contract and still be employed.

April 19, 1999 - East Ridge City Manager ousted as City Manager of East Ridge during a specially called meeting early Sunday morning, April 18

of the City Council at city hall. At issue was contract and severance pay dispute dating back to February. Mr. Hamill said he would seek legal recourse.

April 20, 1999 - The East Ridge City Council defended calling a special Sunday meeting to oust the city manager - it had been suggested they might have violated the state's Sunshine Law, which states that meeting of state, city and county government must be open to the public. Council denied any secret meetings - meeting was called in proper manner.

April 27, 1999 - No tax increase expected.

East Ridge Baptist Church Library celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

June 23, 1999 - Council workshop held on topic of curbside recycling - East Ridge only city in the area without a recycling program.

June 4, 1999 - East Ridge Mayor Fred Pruett elected to post of chairman of the urban growth group, a committee coordinating the county's growth planning process.

September 8, 1999 - The City of East Ridge to try to educate citizens about complying with new ordinance on flood control - limits kind of development that can occur in East Ridge with a permit and requires contractors to show that developments would have negative effect on the city.

September 18, 1999 - Annual hot air balloon festival held at Camp Jordan Park for JordanFest 99 - balloonists come from all over the United States for the festival. JordanFest is three days of crafts, vendors, foods and children's activities, highlighted by the balloon festival.

September 21, 1999 - The East Ridge City Council said they believed city has to find a way to hold employees more accountable-result may be more employees punch a time clock and undergo annual reviews of their work - said city doesn't have system of checks and balances to insure employees do their jobs adequately - job descriptions for supervisors one suggestion.

Pay plan designed for The City of East Ridge found that East Ridge was inconsistent in how it paid certain employees with similar education and experience – salary adjustments to be considered.

September 23, 1999 - The City of Chattanooga proposed to take over the Tennessee American Water Company and declared it had right to take property in East Ridge and Red Bank as part of the takeover – but can't use East Ridge's streets or rights-of-way without permission – would have to negotiate with smaller cities for right to operate the water system along their streets.

September 28, 1999 - East Ridge and Hamilton County officials agreed the county could turn a tire pickup station on Spring Creek Road into a recycling drop-off facility (located behind Columbia East Ridge Hospital). Drop-off centers more cost effective than curbside program.

**2000** – May 5, 2000 – Otella Murphy, East Ridge elementary educator and employee of East Ridge City Library, passed away.

September 22, 2000 -Terming Camp Jordan Park a “gold mine”, the East Ridge City Council, members of athletic associations, residents and members of the East Ridge Recreation Board met to discuss building an additional multi-sport indoor facility at the 267-acre Camp Jordan Park. Soccer leagues stated indoor leagues could double in size. According to the Director of Special Events at the current arena, three or four bookings a week have to be refused from December 1 to mid-March because of indoor soccer.

The East Ridge City Council approved a Recreation Board recommendation that the City of East Ridge and the City of Chattanooga jointly develop a thirteen/fifteen field outdoor soccer complex at Camp Jordan Park – East Ridge to provide the land and Chattanooga the money. Would be boost for motels, restaurants and local economy in general.

October 3, 2000 – The East Ridge City Council unanimously decided to offer the job of city manager to Jim McAlister of Conroe, Texas (after more than eighteen months without a manager). Mr. McAlister to begin in November.

For the sixth year in a row, the East Ridge Fire Department received the Fire Department's 1999 Life Safety Achievement Award for its fire prevention activities, public education programs and no fire deaths.

October 28, 2000 - Dozens of East Ridge citizens turned out at the council meeting to protest the proposed family entertainment complex at Camp Jordan Park (to be built in phases) - would have driving ranges, teaching facility, batting cages, miniature golf, bumper boats, go-carts, an arcade and party and meeting rooms. First phase hopefully finished in June 2001. Protesters cited noise, traffic and lights as some of their concerns. A group of concerned citizens declared they would hire attorney to achieve its goal of stopping construction.

Newly elected council members - Fred Pruett, Mayor; John Tilley, vice mayor; Debbie Triplett, Vince Dean and Tony Clark.

November 24, 2000 - East Ridge had been without bus service since 1982 until Flexride, a curb-to-curb, on demand weekday transit service begin - operates in city limits of East Ridge and links with all CARTA services at Eastgate Town Center. Three year pilot program designed to demonstrate effectiveness of public transit outside core downtown areas.

December 5, 2000 - East Ridge city employees to have choice of two retirement packages from which to choose. New package through Tennessee Consolidated Retirement Workers, a state plan. Old plan Lincoln National Corporation. Under the old plan, an employee has to be sixty-five to retire with full benefits. Under the new state plan, employee can retire with full benefits after thirty years of service - or at age sixty. State plan also offers health insurance after retirement. State plan more cost-effective.

The East Ridge City Council approved an ordinance on first reading to raise the sewer user fee about ten percent. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation required East Ridge to raise the sewer user fee because the city not collecting sufficient funds to retire its debt. Alternative ways to raise money under consideration.

**2001 - January** - The East Ridge City Council voted to restructure the city departments, reducing the number of department heads from seventeen to six, after recommendations by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service. The new plan promotes more accountability and creates a

chain of command: six departments with supervisors who answer to the city manager.

Reorganization created a new department – Parks and Recreation - city hired new Parks and Recreation director.

February 2001 - After twenty-three years as Director of the East Ridge City Library, librarian Ann Pruett retired.

June 5, 2001 – East Ridge Police Chief Joe Sebenick reportedly removed from his post and Fire Chief Eddie Phillips confirmed he (Mr. Phillips) was the city's acting Police Chief. Move apparent surprise to many city officials.

The East Ridge City Council voted to create the Director of Public Safety and Deputy Fire and Police positions – for financial reasons and to streamline the department – to fill the vacancy left by the firing of Police Chief Joe Sebenick.

Carl Hughes, supervisor of the maintenance department of the City of East Ridge, passed away, six months after his retirement.

East Ridge Police Chief Joe Sebenick said the city manager had yet to notify him that he had been fired. Mr. Sebenick said he received phone call and caller asked him if he'd seen the newspaper – which said he'd been fired.

City Manager Jim McAlister stated he fired the police chief because of growing dissension that had existed between the chief and personnel of the police department. Mr. McAlister denied the rumor that he'd been hired as city manager for the sole purpose of firing the police chief.

The police chief said a division within the department was created in 1998 by an internal investigation into several officers accused of putting illegal computer chips into cable television boxes.

August 2001 – The East Ridge City Council voted to lower property tax by about \$0.15 in a special called meeting. Reactions mixed and hope was that because of rising prices, the council wouldn't have to come back next year and ask for a tax increase.

September 2001 – Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority, having acquired several small cities' sewer systems – offered to take over East Ridge's sewer system – make it into one large consolidated system. Smaller municipalities said to be struggling to maintain their systems.

The City of East Ridge awarded U.S. Department of Justice block grant in the amount of \$17,488.00 to purchase nine video cameras for certain police units.

October 12, 2001 – The East Ridge City Council voted to join the Hamilton County and Wastewater Treatment Authority, choosing the county system over the City of Chattanooga, which had also offered to take over East Ridge's sewer system

October 2001 - East Ridge officials held flood meeting – need to know how many homeowners would help pay for floodproofing and participate in federal matching grant.

October 27, 2001 - East Ridge City Manager Jim McAlister submitted his letter of resignation to the East Ridge City Council after a year in office – called himself a casualty of East Ridge politics. Finance Director David Mays to act as City Manager until Council decides on further action.

October 30, 2001 - Chattanooga City Council expected to pass resolution giving Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture Department permission to create the Regional Soccer Management with Hamilton County and the City of East Ridge, where Camp Jordan Park is located.

November 11, 2001 - East Ridge City Manager Jim McAlister was asked to resign, city officials said. According to Mayor Pruett, he wasn't doing his job and the employees were not happy. Resignation submitted on October 25. Mr. McAlister said his departure was pursuant to the Council's request. Mr. McAlister said to have health problems, and he wanted changes to his contract that were not acceptable. He received \$32,000.00 in severance pay (six months) as part of his contract because he was asked to leave rather than leaving on his own.

December 12, 2001– East Ridge City Judge William Luther resigned after forty years of service – plans to retire to Panama City, Florida.

December 14, 2001 - The East Ridge City Council appointed the city manager as the city's representative in the Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority, which the city joined earlier this year, transferring the city's sewer system and its debt to the entity.

Interim City Manager David Mays said he would designate East Ridge's Environmental Director Caren Ruffner as his alternate.

The East Ridge City Council voted to accept letters from East Ridge lawyers interested in being interim city judge until election in November.

Several city employees retired during the year: Ann Pruett, 23 years; Debbie Johnson, 14 years; Raymond Byrd, 18 years; J. W. Bunch, 33 years; Ben Miller, 32 years.

Kenny Custer of the Fire Rescue Department named Firefighter of the Year; Officer Jeremy Durham named Police Officer of the Year; Officer John Sentell appointed Crime Prevention/DARE officer. The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) under the command of Lt. Tim Mullinax received much specialized training in 2001.

**2002 - January** – Attorney Arvin Reingold, who served East Ridge as a Special Judge, sworn in as the new East Ridge City Judge – replaced William Luther, who retired after more than forty years of service. Judge Reingold to finish Mr. Luther's unexpired term, serving until the city election in November.

January 11, 2002 - The East Ridge City Council voted to delay for a few weeks signing a contract with Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga that would create a regional authority due to the charter's wording about the financial roles of the three entities.

East Ridge Hospital opened a sleep center, the Sleepwell Center.

Thelma Renner, former East Ridge City Library board member, passed away.

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Freda Wheeler was appointed to the position of Director of East Ridge Parks and Recreation.

March 2002 – The East Ridge City Council voted to sign the contract with Hamilton County and the City of Chattanooga to create a regional soccer authority at Camp Jordan Park. Contract was to be signed in January but was delayed until wording about financial responsibility was worked out. The \$3 million complex, which will be funded primarily with state and federal grants, and private and corporate donations, include creation of fourteen soccer fields, a stadium and a new indoor facility.

March 14, 2002 – Ben Miller, supervisor of Wastewater Department and 32 year employee of the City of East Ridge, passed away, nine months after his retirement.

East Ridge City Library celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dr. Seuss with a Seuss-a-Bration. There were treats and prizes, along with a visit from the Cat in the Hat.

April 2002 – Development of \$3 million soccer complex at Camp Jordan moving forward. East Ridge appointed three representatives – City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County each expected to appoint their representatives shortly.

April 2002 – Former East Ridge Mayor Gladston Wilford “G.W.” White, passed away at the age of 82.

April 2002 – Roundabout built just outside Bachman Tubes through Missionary Ridge to alleviate traffic problems deemed a success by some; others disagree.

Pioneer Festival took place around the East Ridge City Hall with a theme of “The Spirit of America.” Food, live entertainment, contests, antique car show, kids’ kingdom, senior circle and a host of other events made the day a big success.

Memorial Hospital donated an ambulance to the East Ridge Fire Rescue Department.

Lt. Tim Mullinax graduated from the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy; Detective J. C. Johnson was one of only fourteen officers nationwide to attend the National Forensic Academy at UT. Patrol Officer Dale Line named Officer of the Year for 2002 by Police Services Division. Sgt. Mitchell Smith wins Top Gun Award for 2002.

Camp Jordan Park now has 13 ball fields, 6 soccer fields, 2 Ultimate Frisbee fields, 34,000 square ft. Camp Jordan Arena (available for rental), 300 RV spaces with electric and water connections, 2 mile walking track, 2 sandlot volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, picnic pavilion with kitchen (available for rental), radio controlled airplane field, stocked fish pond and the Camp Jordan Amphitheater (available for rental.)

Kim Mullins, teacher at ERHS, elected as one of 3 teachers as Tennessee Teacher of the Year for 2003. State and nationals to follow.

16-year-old CHSCCA student arrested ; bomb making materials found in his East Ridge home.

About 40 of the 340 East Ridge residents displaced because of the flood a month ago still not able to return to their homes.

East Ridge to seek grant funds to streetscape Ringgold Road. Old police building to be remodeled for extra space.

Camp Jordan Park updated website: [www.campjordan.com](http://www.campjordan.com)

Erlanger hospital donated a rescue truck to the East Ridge Fire-Rescue Division.

September 2002 – Trip's Seafood Restaurant of East Ridge closed after ten years.

East Ridge Hospital to open a \$36 million surgery addition.

East Ridge Fire-Rescue awarded National Life Safety Achievement for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

Officers Scott Butcher and Charles Miller graduated from 10-week Police Academy course.

City of East Ridge awarded \$22,252 grant by the U.S. Department of Justice to be used to complete installing in-car video cameras on all front line police vehicles.

Mayor Fred Pruett, Tom Card, Vince Dean and Louie Thompson new city councilmen.

December 2002 – Two men arrested for stealing mail out of mailboxes.

**2003** – East Ridge, facing budget problems, could face a property tax increase. Also possibly be required to go into the stormwater control business.

East Ridge Fire Department receives grant from the U.S. Fire Administration through Federal Emergency Management Agency for fire safety and equipment.

East Ridge police officer arrested and charged with six criminal counts related to accusations of sexual misconduct with a minor.

County planning for Phase 2 of stormwater control.

East Ridge Education Committee (EREC) grows to 200 members, with a 21-member board.

2-5-2003 – Four East Ridge officials – Mayor Vince Dean, Councilman Louie Thompson, Councilman Tom Card and City Manager David Mays – graduated from Level 1 of the Elected Officials Academy.

2-11-03 – Proposal made on reopening East Ridge animal shelter (facility would not euthanize animals but be place where pets could be adopted. Questions of an possible liability problems turned over to city attorney.

Pioneer Festival held at Camp Jordan Park. Events included Christian Teen Night, car show, live entertainment, midway-on-site amusement park with rides, and plenty of food.

East Ridge City Library celebrated a 30-year anniversary.

East Ridge Police Services Division acquired a special operations vehicle to be used by the SWAT/Special Operations team and detectives from the Criminal Investigation Division.

Eight East Ridge firefighters sent to chemical, ordinance, biological and radiological (COBRA) school in Anniston, AL for chemical/geological "live agent" training.

5-24-03 – East Ridge received a Federal Assistance to Firefighters grant for lifesaving equipment.

WRCB-TV aired War Stories from the Veteran's Oral History Project – Mayor Fred Pruett one of ten veterans featured.

Bill to allow East Ridge to sell fireworks defeated.

6-27-03 – The City of East Ridge and a former police officer sued on sex with minor charges.

7-11-2003 – Second round of bidding for construction of the planned new soccer stadium at Camp Jordan still considerably above budget.

Four police officers injured in shoplifting, patrol car theft and crash.

East Ridge detective placed on administrative leave pending completion of internal investigation into allegations of possible misconduct while obtaining items from a local merchant.

8-9-2003 – Several birds with West Nile virus found in East Ridge.

9-20-03 – East Ridge police one of TBI's most wanted men, along with four of his accomplices.

Two men charged with stealing mail from East Ridge mailboxes.

Several meth labs found in East Ridge area.

City Manager and Finance Director David Mays awarded the 2003 Excellence in Public Services Award by the East Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.

10-28-03 – Two Meigs County men arrested and charged in the murder of East Ridge resident, James Neff.

Groundbreaking for East Ridge soccer complex on October 28.

11-15-03- East Ridge man arrested and charged with assault after grabbing and kissing two young girls in the East Ridge City Library.

11-24-2003 – East Ridge High School administrator/coach Catherine Neely selected by the Nashville Tennessean as one of Tennessee's most influential women in sports.

12-9-03 - A \$10.00 monthly garbage fee, to be collected by the TAWC, will go into effect in January 2004 for East Ridge residents.

Minutes of the January 28, 2004 City Council meeting in History Notebook.

**2004** – East Ridge police arrested Jerry W. Jones, who kidnapped two small girls, one his daughter, and fled from GA after murdering four other family members, including his infant daughter.

1-22-04 - Debbie Coburn, veteran school board member, announces she will run as a democrat against House District 30 incumbent, Jack Sharp.

1-26-04 – East Ridge police received \$69,229.18 equitable sharing proceeds from seizure of assets and cash in major drug investigations – eight other police agencies also received a share of the proceeds.

Tasers to be furnished to all East Ridge police officers.

Bomb threats made to East Ridge schools – high school and middle school evacuated.

3-11-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

3-25-2004 - Minutes of Council meeting.

East Ridge graduate finds career as Legoland Master Model Builder.

City Council approves use of stun guns by East Ridge police department.

4-22-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

5-6-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

6-10-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

6-20-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

Filled with 7 soccer fields, development of Phase 1 of the Regional Soccer Complex in Camp Jordan Park about 70 percent complete.

EAST RIDGE GROWTH IS UP\*

REAL ESTATE VALUES MOVING UP IN EAST RIDGE\*

\*See article in History Notebook for 2003-2004

6-2004 – Police Cpl. Bob Burkhart back on active duty after being injured in the line of duty in July 2003.

6-2004 – Fire and Rescue Division acquired two new thermal imaging cameras and tasers for all front line patrol and traffic officers.

9-2004 – Chief Eddie Phillips appointed to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association (TFCA).

9-2004 – Lt. Lynn Ford, East Ridge policeman, was honored by Brainerd Optimist Club – first officer to approach car of man who murdered several people and took several hostages and rescue the children.

9-9-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

10-14-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting

10-27-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

10-29-2004 – East Ridge Fire and Rescue receives \$87,329 grant

11-2-2004 – East Ridge city election held. Vice Mayor Dean elected for third term. Denny Manning elected to first term. Arvin Reingold elected judge.

11-04-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

11-22-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

11-2004 – Pioneer Frontier Playground turns ten years old.

12-10-2004 – Rave Motion Pictures 18-screen stadium theater opened by the Kmart store.

12-16-2004 – Minutes of Council meeting.

12-20-2004 – Inaugural/Organization meeting of City Council. Councilmember Dean made Vice Mayor.

2005 – 1-14-2005 – East Ridge passes 5% hotel/motel tax.

1-13-20045– Minutes of Council meeting.

1-15-2005 – East Ridge alters hotel/motel tax to 2%. This was repealed in February 2005.

1-2005 – East Ridge breaks ground for new fire station on Fred Pruett Parkway at the entrance to Camp Jordan.

1-2005 – History and goals of East Ridge schools.

2-10-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

2-15-2005 – Minutes of Council workshop.

3-6-2005 – Agenda of planning workshop attended by councilmembers.

3-2005 – Camp Jordan proposed for re-opening of the bicycle motorcross track.

3-11-2005 – Mayor Pruett in remission after battle with leukemia and back on the job.

4-30-2005 – East Ridge Outdoor Expo held at Camp Jordan with 5K run, sports exhibitions and entertainment. This Expo will replace Pioneer Days.

4-14-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

5-9-2005 – Minutes of called Council meeting

5-12-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting.

5-26-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

6-23-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

7-8-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

7-14-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

7-6-2005 – Sears Essential store opened in the old Kmart location

7-27-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

8-11-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

8-24-2005 – Agenda of meeting

8-28-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting

9-8-2005 – Public hearing for budget 2005-2006

9-2005 – Demand for homes in East Ridge remain steady.

11-16-2005 – Mayor Fred Pruett passed away after a lengthy battle with leukemia.

11-16-2005 – Mayor Fred Pruett passed away after a lengthy battle with leukemia.

11-2005 – Tributes to Mayor Pruett.

Pumpkin and Cider run great success.

Records Division of East Ridge Police Department awarded 2004 Outstanding Performance award by TBI.

East Ridge native, Jeffrey Jackson, contracting officer at NASA's Marshall Space Center's office at Huntsville, AL awarded a NASA Special Achievement medal by NSA.

East Ridge High School volleyball team 2005/2006 A-AA state champions.

Cpl. Jimmy Gass and Cpl. Debra Brown-Johnson of the East Ridge Police Department passed away.

12-4-2005 – Minutes of Council meeting.

12-9-2005 – East Ridge Animal Shelter opens.

2006 – 1-12-2006 – Minutes of Council meeting

1-24-2006 – 47-Acre tract on South Chickamauga Creek added for Greenway.

1-26-2006 – Minutes of Council meeting

1-26-2006 – David Mays becomes City Manager of East Ridge.

2-9-2006 – Minutes of Council meeting.

2-9-2006 – Workshop minutes of Council meeting.

2-10-2006 – Area cities to hire management intern.

2-23-06 – Minutes of Council meeting

March monthly planner for Camp Jordan

- 3-5-2006 – Planning workshop minutes of Council in Nashville, TN.
- 3-8-06 – Tennessee River Sharks open indoor football season at Camp Jordan.
- 3-9-2006 – Minutes of Council meeting.
- 3-10-2006 – East Ridge rated least friendly business climate.
- 3-10-2006 – East Ridge to seek confiscated funds from drug arrests.
- 3-12-2006 – Tennessee State Representative Jack Sharp, former mayor of East Ridge, dies following a lengthy illness.
- 3-13-2006 – East Ridge hosts Education Expo.
- Biographical sketch of East Ridge City leaders.
- Article about East Ridge Educational Committee
- East Ridge Animal Shelter receives high praise.
- Camp Jordan adds Tennessee River Shark and Arena Football.
- 3-15-2006 – Area cities to hire management interns.
- 3-23-06 – Minutes Council Meeting
- 3-23-06 – Former East Ridge Mayor Bob Johnson will not seek House District 30 seat held by Jack Sharp until his death
- 3-27-2006 – Mayor Vince Dean announces he is running for the District senate seat held by Jack Sharp until his death.
- 3-28-2006 – East Ridge High School student attacked by group of students.

3-28-06 – East Ridge Police Department to use “Stinger” tire deflation devices.

3-31-2006 – East Ridge Mayor Vince Dean unanimously approved to replace the late Jack Sharp in the Tennessee General Assembly.

State of the City address by Mayor Vince Dean – services up, taxes low.

Mayor Vince Dean leads Relay for Life committee for American Cancer Society.

Public Safety department deploys 13 new East Ridge police cars.

East Ridge Council: Mayor Vince Dean; Vice Mayor Louie Thompson, Jerry Petty and Tom Card.

April monthly planner for Camp Jordan

4-13-06 – Minutes Council meeting

4-14-06 – East Ridge to cease mosquito control and use county’s

4-18-06 – Parkridge East Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (formerly East Ridge Hospital) to host NICU reunion.

4-20-06 – Amsouth Bank offers Saturday hours for East Ridge and other branches.

4-24-06 – Steve Fine obituary

4-27-06 – Minutes Council meeting.

May monthly planner for Camp Jordan

5-5-06 – East Ridge motorcycle policeman hit by speeding car.

Hamilton County Commission appointed East Ridge Mayor Vince Dean to the position of State Representative to fill the vacant seat of Rep. Jack Sharp, who passed away in March.

East Ridge Animal Shelter certified by Tennessee Board of Veterinary Medical Examiner and Tennessee Department of Health.

East Ridge Department of Public Safety obtained an all-terrain amphibious rescue vehicle, provided by free grant from Tennessee Homeland Security District 3 Council.

Crestwood Garden Club help landscape East Ridge City Hall.

East Ridge Chamber of Commerce information

East Ridge Department of Public Safety received Homeland Security grant for state-of-the-art radio repeater system

5-11-06 – Minutes Council meeting

5-11-06 – Workshop of City Council of East Ridge

5-25-06 – Minutes Council meeting

June monthly planner for Camp Jordan

6-10-06 – East Ridge under budget in every department.

City authorized to hire Johnson, Hickey and Murchison to audit city books.

Council approved 2-year lease with East Ridge Vitalization, Inc. – allowing group to use portion of East Ridge Annex to house East Ridge History and Archives Museum.

6-22-06 – Minutes Council meeting

July monthly planner for Camp Jordan

7-13-06 – Minutes Council Meeting

7-15-06 – Final \$2.5 million sought to complete Camp Jordan soccer fields.

7-25-06 – Bachman Tube closed two days for pavement markings and snowplowable markers.

7-28-06 – Brent Lambert (2006 candidate for East Ridge mayor) campaign sponsors School Supply drive.

7-29-06 - \$17.2 million approved for new road to Hwy. 58 from I-75. Bill also provides \$1.78 million for South Chickamauga Creek Greenway.

August monthly planner for Camp Jordan

8-3-06 – Minutes Council meeting.

8-5-06 – Bailes not to ask for recount in County Commission race against Curtis Adams.

8-10-06 – Minutes Council meeting.

8-11-06 – Townhouse residential community on Frawley Road approved.

8-15-06 – Mayoral candidates Mike Steele, Brent Lambert, John Tilley and David Guffey picked up qualifying papers.

East Ridge Council members Tom Card, Louie Thompson and Jerry Petty have qualified to seek re-election. Others who qualified are Gary G. Gray Sr. and Larry Sewell. Raymond D. Miller Jr. picked up qualifying papers.

8-24-06 – Agenda meeting of City Council.

8-24-06 – Public Hearing for the Budget FY 2006-2007.

8-24-06 – Minutes Council meeting.

8-26-06 – East Ridge approves \$16 million budget, reduced from last year.

East Ridge All-Stars 5 and 6 year old team honored – undefeated winners of B Division in 2006 Dizzy Dean World Series.

**This information needs to be updated and made current – it is included so that the information not be lost.**

### **SCHOOL HISTORY**

In the fall of 1954, East Ridge High School began its growth with the sixth grade holding classes in the basements of various churches and in the East Ridge Town Hall. (This was because East Ridge Junior High, which later became McBrien Elementary School, was not completed.)

In December 1954, the building was completed and the seventh grade moved in, but the Town Hall would still be used for some classes for four more years.

In 1955, the eighth grade was added and the ninth grade added in 1956. The tenth grade was added in 1958.

This new building represented a \$600,000.00 investment and was ready for occupancy. The site, approximately forty acres, was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Foy Crabtree (he mayor of East Ridge and she was a member of the town commission.)

In 1959, the eleventh grade was added and provided grades seven through eleven. Also in 1959, a new wing was completed, along with a football stadium. The students called themselves Pioneers, wore the colors

orange and white, had a school newspaper called The Powder Horn, and recorded their history in a yearbook called The Musket.

In 1960, the twelfth grade was added and on June 1, 1961, the first graduation exercise was held, awarding diplomas to one hundred and sixteen graduates.

Growth continued with the addition of the ROTC building in 1971, a lighted baseball field in 1976, a fenced and lighted track in 1978, the Vocational building in 1980, three tennis courts in 1981 and a gymnasium in 1986.

The first principal was Mr. Fred Jackson. Subsequent principals were Mr. J. R. Rodman, Mr. B. E. Stephens, Mr. Jean Stephens, Mr. Mack Franklin and Mr. Ed Woodham.

In 1986, a staff of seventy-three guided one thousand one hundred and twenty students in grades nine through twelve.

Other schools in the area were East Ridge Elementary which was enlarged in the mid-1950s. Mr. Paul Morris was principal and was followed by Mr. David Knisby, Mr. Fred Newman and Mr. James R. Kelley.

McBrien Elementary School was used from 1954 to 1958 as a junior high school. The principals included Mr. Fred Jackson, Mr. J. R. Rodman, Mr. James Monroe, Mr. Mack Franklin, Mr. Jack Pratt, Mr. James A. Booth, Mr. Donald Beard and Mr. Rodney Thompson.

At Spring Creek Elementary in 1951, Mr. Roy Whitmire became the first principal, followed by Mr. Ira Douthitt, Ms. Margaret Cooper, Themma Running, Mr. David Knisby and Mr. Bill Hampton. In 1983, enrollment was three hundred, but with the closing of the Anna B. Lacey Elementary School in 1985, the student population grew to four hundred and forty in 1986.

Anna B. Lacey enjoyed an enrollment of over six hundred, a new library, an enlarged auditorium, a new cafeteria and new classrooms from 1951 to 1964 during the tenure of principal James L. Milburn. Principals following Mr. Milburn were Dr. W. M. Meyers, Mr. Sammy Gooden, Mr.

Jack Pratt, Mr. Wes Barker, Mr. Earl McDowell, Mr. Bill Hampton and Mr. William Byrd.

As the neighborhood around Lacey began to age, fewer children lived in the area and in 1984-85, enrollment dropped to two hundred and forty. In the summer of 1985, insufficient funds were appropriated for continued operation and Anna B. Lacey school was closed.

The Lutheran school began with early childhood education and continues through grade eight. In 1986, Mr. Robert Hentscher and Mr. Ron Wille were the administrators and had an enrollment of three hundred and seventy-five.

The building was damaged by fire in the 1970s, and was rebuilt with a gymnasium, locker rooms and multi-purpose room.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) opened with an enrollment of forty and was conducted in a farmhouse on the old Anderson farm, property the church had purchased. In 1948, the new school was completed. In 1986, it had two new buildings in the works. One would hold four classrooms, a library and a computer room; the other would be a multi-purpose building and would house offices, meeting rooms, music room and a bookstore, along with a pre-school program.

## **HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**

In 1955, sports by the way of football, was introduced to the East Ridge community. Playing in secondhand uniforms with a coal bin for a locker room, the athletic program introduced the Pioneer mascot and colors orange and white.

In 1958, the seventh through tenth graders provided a "B" team and a ninth grade program. The sports were football, boys' and girls' basketball and baseball. Various football teams made their way to bowl games and playoffs. In 1960-61, volleyball was added, as was track and cross country programs.

In 1961-62, tennis, golf and wrestling teams were added. In 1971, team handball was established. In 1975-76, girls' track was added, and in 197-79, girls' softball was added.

The athletic achievements of these Pioneers have been outstanding in all areas. Bowl games, playoffs, state and city championships, national championships, individual records, records set, records broken, individual state championships, individual achievements, team involvement – all these continue to be part of the Pioneer tradition.

Alma Mater of East Ridge High School  
Written by Mrs. Rebecca Phillips, 1960

East Ridge High School, we salute you  
And our teachers here;  
We'll uphold the standards of the school  
We love so dear;  
We will cherish all the memories  
Of our high school years  
Proudly do we wear the name of  
East Ridge Pioneers

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater  
We would raise a cheer  
For the courage and the spirit  
Of each Pioneer;  
Orange and white are our school banners  
Raise them to the sky  
For we've worked hard for our honors  
Here at East Ridge High

East Ridge High School, we must leave you  
But we hope to see  
All our dreams and expectations  
Coming true for thee,  
Faithful, loyal, serving mankind  
We shall always be  
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater  
Here in Tennessee