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Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.

1. New Neighborhood Group Seeks Help for July Cookout

Our Community Organization (OCO), a new neighborhood group based in East Knoxville, is planning a community cookout in Paul Hogue Park on Saturday, July 30.

The small group is seeking assistance from neighbors and others to make the cookout a success.

“The purpose of the cookout is to connect and engage OUR community and show that there is indeed a caring presence within it,” said Michelle Neal, president of the organization. “We hope this will be the first of many steps that OCO will take in helping to build a better and stronger community!”

“We welcome everyone who lives, works, plays or prays within or around the Five Points neighborhood,” Neal added.

The group is seeking help from neighbors and supporters to provide side dishes, prizes and awards, sponsorships and fliers and other ways to get the word out to residents around the park, which is located on Chestnut Street between Wilson and Selma Avenues.

To obtain a list of needed supplies and services, contact Michelle Neal at 313-4368 or 4oco.org@gmail.com.

2. City Offers Neighborhood Leadership Training Class

The City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods is taking applications for its neighborhood leadership training class, to be held this fall starting Sept. 1.

The program was created specifically for participants in and leaders of resident-led, resident-controlled neighborhood groups, as well as individuals who would like to start neighborhood associations in unorganized neighborhoods. Thirty neighborhood leaders have graduated from this class in the past.

"Building Strong Neighborhood Organizations" (BSNO) is designed to address a wide variety of questions and concerns about starting and sustaining an effective neighborhood organization.

Topics include styles of leadership, identifying and building a neighborhood's most important asset, how to facilitate effective meetings, recruiting and retaining members, internal and external communications, decision-making, conflict resolution, and strategic planning.

There will be one session per week on Thursday evenings, beginning September 1 and running through November 10 at the United Way building near downtown. Each of the 11 sessions will be two hours long (6-8 p.m.) with light snacks served beforehand.

The highly participatory sessions will be facilitated by David Massey, who has headed the city's Office of Neighborhoods since 2008. He was president of the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization in the early 1990s and played a role in the successful multi-neighborhood effort to persuade City Council to deny the zoning required for a garbage incinerator on Baxter Avenue two blocks from Happy Holler.

Participants will receive a textbook, "Building Powerful Community Organizations," along with a 3-ring binder of numerous "how-to" articles on various aspects of creating and sustaining community-based organizations.

There is no charge, but seating is limited. Apply online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSNO_Application or call David Massey at 215-3232, to have a hard copy mailed to you. The deadline for applications is Monday, August 15.

3. KAT Plans Special Event for Neighborhood Groups

Seriously? Have you NEVER climbed aboard a KAT bus?

If not, Knoxville Area Transit is setting aside a whole week --- Try Transit Week --- to encourage you and your neighbors to overcome your fears, inhibitions, what-if gremlins, and married-to-your-car worldview so that you can feel free to climb aboard.

During Try Transit Week (July 11-16), KAT has got a special event planned just for neighborhood groups.

Grab your neighbors and take a Group Bus Ride to the [Market Square Farmer's Market](#) on Saturday, July 16. Stop by the KAT Bus Booth, and your whole group will receive free tickets back home --- along with some other fun giveaways.

During your trip, tag KAT on social media for chances for more fun prizes.

A Group Bus Ride --- what a GREAT way to get to know your neighbors! In addition to the always hopping Farmer's Market, your group could also take in a movie or check out [other activities downtown](#).

Spread the word and then contact KAT to let them know if your neighborhood plans to ride. KAT can provide special travel training, answer your questions, and provide any additional assistance, guaranteeing that your trip will be fun and easy! Contact Anne Victoria at avictoria@katbus.com or 215-7863.

Never ridden before? No problem! You can use KAT's new Google Trip Planner to plan your trip. Browse to www.katbus.com, type in your location and your destination, and let Google do the work for you. Once downtown, free trolleys will connect you to the Farmer's Market, quick and easy.

View the [How to Ride video](#). See you on the bus!

4. MPC Surveys Parkridge for Possible Expansion of H-1

Staff from the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) will be in the Parkridge neighborhood this summer to conduct an update of an existing historic inventory by taking pictures and mapping buildings.

The survey follows a resolution by the Knoxville City Council last April directing MPC to make recommendations on whether to extend the boundaries of the city's H-1 historic overlay district in Parkridge to more closely align with the larger Edgewood-Park City National Register Historic District.

The Parkridge Community Organization (PCO) asked for the H-1 expansion after several months of discussion among neighbors.

To see the current H-1 overlay versus the larger National Register district, browse to www.kgis.org, drill down to the Parkridge neighborhood, pull up planning and zoning maps, and click on "Historic Districts and pre-1865 Structures." The National Register Historic District is colored green; the city's H-1 overlay district is cross-hatched in red.

"The best-preserved portion of the early 20th-century municipality known as 'Park City' is today recognized by the National Park Service as a historically significant neighborhood," noted Kaye Graybeal, MPC's historic preservation officer. "Some of the structures in this area are irreplaceable parts of Knoxville's urban development history, but are not yet protected by a City historic overlay. With the expansion of the existing historic overlay to cover these structures, more of the historic character of the overall neighborhood would be preserved."

New construction, demolition, and changes to buildings within an historic overlay zone are reviewed by the Historic Zoning Commission to ensure the preservation of community character. For details, contact Graybeal at 215-3795.

5. Council to Study Proposed Ordinance on Pay Day Loan Stores

Knoxville City Council will hold a workshop at 5:30 p.m. this coming Thursday, June 30, to discuss a proposed ordinance related to “alternative financial services” such as pay day loan establishments.

The workshop, to be held in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building, may include an opportunity for citizen comment.

Residents of neighborhoods along several major corridors --- especially Chapman Highway and North Broadway --- have long complained that pay day loan establishments are popping up like weeds. The concern is that many such businesses harm citizens who end up paying very high interest rates for advances on their pay checks, present a negative image of the neighborhood, and occupy buildings that could be used in ways more beneficial to the local economy.

In response to neighborhood concerns, City Council in late 2014 asked the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) to investigate and propose ways to limit the number of Alternative Financial Services (AFS) businesses in the City.

MPC defines AFS to include not just payday loan stores but also check-cashing outlets, money transmitters, car title lenders, pawnshops, and rent-to-own stores.

In a Memorandum issued last August, MPC identified 81 AFS’s in the city and suggested that the proliferation of such businesses could be regulated with spacing requirements. In other words, MPC suggested, Council could adopt a zoning regulation that requires that an AFS be sited at least 1,000 feet from residentially zoned properties and at least 1,000 feet from an existing AFS.

Last February, Council asked MPC to prepare such an ordinance. MPC staff drafted the ordinance, which MPC considered and recommended at its meeting last March. Now City Council is looking at the proposed ordinance in depth. Currently the matter is scheduled to come before Council at its July 5 meeting.

[See this page](#) on the MPC website for a copy of the 2015 Memorandum and the proposed ordinance recommended by MPC last March.

6. City Council to Meet One Hour Earlier

Starting Tuesday, July 19, Knoxville City Council will begin its meetings one hour earlier --- at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. The Beer Board (consisting of City Council members) will begin at 5 p.m. Council meets every other week, and the Beer Board meets monthly.

7. Better Building Board to Consider Two Properties

Two properties are on the agenda for this week’s Better Building Board (BBB) meeting at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Neighbors affected by these properties may wish to be present to testify on their impact on the neighborhood.

For a full copy of the June BBB agenda, with details and owner information on each property, visit http://knoxvilletn.gov/government/boards_commissions and click on the Better Building Board.

First, the BBB will consider an appeal regarding 922 Vermont Avenue, which received an immediate repair order last April for violations of the building code related to electrical, plumbing, structural and roofing issues.

Second, a vacant lot at 3740 Speedway Circle is on the agenda for a determination of blight. The lot is owned by Angela Fields, who also owns the house next door at 3738 Speedway Circle. The house has already been determined and certified blighted.

Under the city's Chronic Problem Properties ordinance, a property first determined and then later certified by the BBB to be blighted can eventually be acquired by the City, using its eminent domain powers, if the owner fails to take corrective action.

Blighted properties acquired by the city are listed for sale through Community Development's Homemaker's Program. See: http://knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/community_development/homemaker_program/

8. Are These Blighted Properties in Your Neighborhood?

Fourteen properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. Friday, July 1.

The Public Officer --- David Brace, director of Public Works for the city --- will hear testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. Testimony can also be made by the property owners, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders, such as lien holders.

The Public Officer then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Failure by the owner to cure the problem may result in the boarding or demolition of a structure, or the cleanup of a dirty or overgrown lot, with costs billed to the owner. A property owner may appeal the Public Officer's decision to the Better Building Board and, ultimately, to Chancery Court.

The properties to be heard for repair and/or demolition orders are: 2406 Bernhurst Drive, 450 Cedar Avenue, 2300 North Central Street (commercial), 201 East Churchwell Avenue, 1710 Delaware Avenue, 313 Dickson Street, 800 Graves Street, 1219 Harmony Lane, 829 Maplehurst Court, 831 Maplehurst Court, 285 Maryville Pike, 965 East Moody Avenue, 1114 Raleigh Avenue (accessory structure only), and 1618 Vermont Avenue.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, you or a representative of your organization may wish to attend the meeting to submit testimony about the impact of the property on the neighborhood.

The full July 1 agenda, with details on each property, can be found here: http://knoxvilletn.gov/government/boards_commissions/better_building_board/ Just click on “Current Public Officer Hearing agenda.”

9. July 4 Festival Offers Fireworks, Music, 225th Activities

The City of Knoxville’s “[Festival on the Fourth](#)” celebration will begin at 4 p.m. Monday in World’s Fair Park and end with a two-hour concert by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra starting at 8 p.m. and a 15-minute fireworks display starting at 9:35 p.m.

Festival goers can enjoy paddleboats on World’s Fair Park lake; musical performances by Kelsey’s Woods, Misty River and Fourkast on two Festival stages; food; a carousel and other activities.

In honor of the City’s 225th anniversary, the base of the Sunsphere will be illuminated with red, white and blue lights; vintage photos of Knoxville will be displayed on jumbo screens; and representatives of Knoxville’s Historic Homes will be on hand with information and displays.

No alcohol, tents or pets will be allowed in the park for this event.

10. City Services Holiday Schedule

City of Knoxville offices will be closed Monday, July 4, for the Independence Day Holiday.

Waste Connections WILL run residential garbage and recycling routes on July 4, and downtown trash pickup and recycling will run on regular schedule throughout the July 4 weekend.

The City’s recycling centers will be open, but the Goodwill attendant will not be available for household goods donations on the Fourth. The City’s Solid Waste Management Facility located at 1033 Elm Street will be closed on Saturday, July 2, and Monday, July 4. Amnesty Saturday will be held at the Solid Waste Management Facility on Saturday, July 9.

11. Use the Public Tree Inventory to Help Promote Trees

The City of Knoxville’s exhaustive inventory of trees on public land is nearly complete and is now available on the city website.

The inventory can be accessed from the city’s [urban forestry website](#) or directly from the tree inventory page on the [KGIS website](#).

With this feature, the public can find a wealth of information about public trees, including the species (both common and scientific names), diameter, cultivar, location, number of stems and the year the tree was planted. Citizens can also request a tree to be planted in a particular location or send an email message with any information or comments that

they wish to share. All correspondence will get passed along to the City's Urban Forest Division, which will respond as needed.

"Not every public tree in the City has been cataloged to date, but we are very close to having the entire city inventoried," noted Urban Forester Kasey Krouse. "As new areas are inventoried, new information will be periodically updated on KGIS."

Krouse suggested the following possible uses of the inventory:

- Taking a virtual tour around a neighborhood and learning the different types of trees.
- Email a particular tree and let the tree know if there are any issues, concerns, or just let the tree know how much you appreciate the benefits the tree provides. (We are guessing that it will be Krouse, rather than the tree itself, who responds.)
- Request a neighborhood planting project by determining the locations and species of trees that the neighborhood would like to plant. (Residents can map the planting location, and that information will be sent over to the City.)
- Print off maps and locations of where trees exist within a park or neighborhood for planning purposes.

Questions may be directed to Krouse at 215-6113 or kkrouse@knoxvilltn.gov.

12. Knoxville SOUP Deadline this Wednesday

Do you have a Neighborhood project that needs funding? Submit your application by Wednesday, June 29, for a chance to present your project at the next event.

To fill out your application, go to www.KnoxvilleSOUP.org. It's easy-peasy with 4 simple questions: What is the project? Why does it matter? How will you use the funds? What is the time frame?

Thursday, July 7, will be the next Knoxville SOUP micro funding event. It will be held at the South Knoxville Community Center, 522 Maryville Pike, 37920. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the [South Knoxville Alliance](#).

13. Neighborhood and Government Calendar (clickable to new online calendar)

Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this calendar. Call 215-4382.

Visit <http://knoxvilletn.gov/calendar> for a complete list of meetings of various city boards and commissions.

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

About This Newsletter

- ** This Advisory is produced on most Tuesdays of the year.*
- ** Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*
- ** Deadline for news & calendar items: 5 p.m. Mondays*
- ** May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.*
- ** See past issues at our Website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*
- ** Don't have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*