

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 25 – Tuesday, July 12, 2016

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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.

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1. NAC to Discuss Police Issues, Neighborhood Entrance Signs

Police issues and neighborhood entrance signs will be the two main topics of discussion at the July meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Council ([NAC](#)).

NAC --- appointed by the Mayor to provide advice and feedback to the Administration on neighborhood-related issues --- will meet at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, in the community room of the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street. The meeting is open to the public, and all neighborhood leaders are encouraged to attend.

Clarence Vaughn III, director of the Police Advisory Review Committee ([PARC](#)), will speak. PARC, a seven-person board appointed by the Mayor, has the power to receive and investigate complaints about police conduct, hear cases, make findings and disclose those findings to the Mayor and the KPD Chief of Police. Vaughn will explain how PARC accepts complaints from citizens about police conduct and reviews incidents involving police action.

In addition, Crista Cuccaro from the City Law Department and Zoning Chief Scott Elder will discuss neighborhood entrance signs, a new proposal for allowing and permitting such signs in the City right-of-way, and the permitting of neighborhood signs under the City's sign ordinance. See these draft documents:

*** [Process for Permitting a Neighborhood Entrance Sign](#)

*** [Request for a Neighborhood Entrance Sign](#)

2. Mandatory Grant Workshop is This Saturday

One of two mandatory pre-application workshops for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program will be held at 10 a.m. this coming Saturday, July 16, at United Way, 1301 Hannah Avenue.

To be eligible for funding under this latest round, a representative of your neighborhood organization must attend EITHER the Saturday workshop or the follow-up workshop at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 21, at Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street. Send two persons from your group if possible.

Neighborhood groups can apply for grants ranging from \$500 to \$3,000. Under certain conditions, some projects can be funded up to \$4,500. Grants must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis with the value of volunteer labor and donations.

Applications are due August 29, and awards will be announced in October. The City of Knoxville is allocating up to \$40,000 in NSGP funds for neighborhood-based projects that would be funded in late 2016 for projects to be carried out during calendar year 2017.

The [grant guidelines](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the city's website. To have hard copies mailed to you, call the Office of Neighborhoods at 215-4382 (Debbie Sharp) or 215-3232 (David Massey). Also, call Debbie or David if you have questions or just wish to talk about project ideas.

Grant funds can be used for projects and programs developed by resident-led, resident-controlled neighborhood associations, tenant associations, homeowners associations, and neighborhood watch groups that serve neighborhoods inside city limits. Start-up neighborhood groups may also apply.

With this round of funding, the Office of Neighborhoods is shifting the NSGP calendar so that the project year matches the calendar year. See the [list of neighborhood groups](#) that won grants in the 2016 round.

3. MPC Agenda Includes Neighborhood Issues

This week's meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Commission ([MPC](#)) includes proposed rezonings or uses-on-review which, if ultimately approved by City Council, would affect several city neighborhoods.

MPC meets at 1:30 p.m. this Thursday, July 14, in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building. The [July agenda](#) includes:

*** [Request by Ed Smith and Pratt Partners](#) to amend the One Year Plan and the North City Sector Plan so that a 4.39-acre tract of land at 5426 Pratt Road in the **Inskip** area can be rezoned from R-1 residential to C-6 commercial. "Pratt Road is a narrow local street that was designed for low density residential uses," MPC staff states in opposing the changes.

*** [Trinity Business Group LLC's request](#) to amend the one-year plan and the Central City Sector Plan so that a 5-acre tract at 302 North Avenue on the edge of the **Lincoln Park neighborhood** can be rezoned from I-3 light industrial to I-4 heavy industrial.

“Heavy industrial uses are not appropriate for this site,” MPC staff argues. “All industrial zoning on the south side of the railroad is I-3. The access to the site from North Ave. is not sufficient for more intense heavy industrial uses that generally include trips from large semi-trucks. North Ave. is very narrow and the site's only access is through the adjacent residential neighborhood.”

*** [Application by Raj Sood](#), on behalf of owner Capso Properties LLC, to rezone a 1.9-acre tract at 3515 North Broadway from F-1 floodway to C-4 highway and arterial commercial. This property is located in the northern section of the **Oakwood Lincoln Park** neighborhood and across Broadway from the entrance to the **Fairmont Emoriland** neighborhood.

“The site had previously been permitted for auto sales in the F-1 zone, which would still be permitted today,” MPC states. “However, the applicant is proposing to change the use to a pawn shop, which would require this rezoning to C-4/F-1. If approved, the result would be that C-4 uses would be permitted on the site, subject to all applicable requirements of the F-1 zoning district. Approval of this request to either C-3 or C-4 will clearly define what types of commercial uses may be permitted on the site.”

*** [Draft Amendment to the City's parking ordinance](#). But MPC staff is asking for the item to be postponed pending further comment and analysis.

*** AKP Properties LLC's [concept plan for the “Bentley Estates” subdivision](#) at 430 Broome Road in the **West Hills neighborhood**. AKP proposes 31 detached residential lots on an 11.67-acre site. “The applicant has asked for a postponement to meet with the neighborhood and to address comments from staff.”

The **West Hills Community Association** originally opposed the plan because of density. Now, however, the group --- working with the **Cavett Station Homeowners Association** --- has raised new concerns about the possibility of graves located in much of the property. According to West Hills President Ashley Williams, the graves are believed to include not only the victims of the [1793 Cavett Station Massacre](#) but also the residents of a long-forgotten church cemetery.

4. Candidate Forums Set for Tonight, Next Monday

The [League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County](#) will hold a candidate forum tonight and again next week for candidates in contested races on the August 4 ballot.

Tonight's forum will feature candidates for the contested primary race for State Representative in District 18. Confirmed candidates attending will be James Corcoran, Martin Daniel, Bryan Dodson and Steve Hall. The forum will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street. John North, Executive Producer at WBIR-TV, will moderate.

A forum for the candidates of contested races in County Commission Districts 4, 5 and 6 will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, July 18, at the Emporium, 100 S. Gay Street. Liza Zenni, executive director of Arts & Culture Alliance, will moderate. Confirmed candidates attending will be Hugh Nystrom, Marleen Kay Davis, John Schoonmaker, Sheri Ridgeway, Brad Anders and Donna Lucas.

For more, see the LWV website or contact Rynn Dupes, League president, at cadupes@gmail.com or 865-803-8763.

Early voting for the August 4 election begins this Friday, July 15, and ends Saturday, July 30. For a list of early voting locations and other information about upcoming elections, see the [Knox County Election Commission website](#).

5. City Council Says Yes to Regulating Pay Day Loan Businesses

[Knoxville City Council](#) last week passed, on first reading, an ordinance that would prohibit “alternative financial services” (AFS) such as pay day loan businesses and pawn shops from locating within 1,000 feet of other such businesses or within 1,000 feet of residentially zoned property.

The ordinance is scheduled for a second reading at the July 19 City Council meeting. (To become law, a proposed City ordinance must be adopted twice, on two “readings” at two separate City Council meetings.)

City Law Director Charles Swanson [had cautioned](#) that he was not confident that the City has the statutory authority to use its zoning powers in this fashion on these kinds of businesses, but Council nevertheless voted 8-1 in favor of the proposed ordinance. Several Council members cited the perceived detrimental effect of such businesses on individuals who use the services and on the image of nearby neighborhoods.

If adopted, the Ordinance will not impact existing AFS services, which will be grandfathered.

6. BZA Decisions Can Impact Your Neighborhood

Eighteen properties are on the agenda for next week’s meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Established by city ordinance, BZA hears appeals of denials of building permits by the city's Building Inspections Department. The board --- consisting of five citizens appointed by the Mayor --- meets at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

BZA meets next Thursday, July 21. Addresses on the agenda include 7824 Kingston Pike, 2706 Piedmont St., 100 Lockett Rd., 6215 Enterprise Dr., 6408 Papermill Dr., 4820 Ridgedale Rd., 204 Gore Rd., 1004 Craigland Court, 822 Deery St., 733 W. Emerald Ave., 2637 Western Ave., 2332 Wheeler St., 817 Deery St., 9615 Kroger Park Dr., 2423 N. Central St., 516 Renford Rd., 500 Princeton Court, and 2701 Spence Place.

Keep up with how the BZA might impact your neighborhood. Watch for the black and white signs indicating that there is a pending decision on a particular piece of property. Most signs are for Metropolitan Planning Commission issues --- which are also important --- but signs with the word “variance” are BZA items.

The BZA agenda – containing added information --- is posted on the city website. Browse to www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards and click on Board of Zoning Appeals.

A neighborhood group that keeps track of BZA will call the Plans Review & Inspections Department at 215-3669 to request and study the paperwork on a particular appeal, decide whether to take a position on the appeal, and then attend the BZA meeting to voice the group’s support or objections. A group can also request a postponement to allow time to meet with the applicant.

Decisions of the BZA can be appealed within 15 days of the BZA decision to Knoxville City Council. Appeals of a City Council decision are made to Chancery Court within 60 days of a City Council decision related to BZA.

7. County Schedules Tax Sale; City Joins In

Knox County Trustee Ed Shouse has scheduled County Tax Sale 20 --- a public auction of both city and county tax delinquent properties --- at 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 2, in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building.

This is important to neighborhood groups who wish to keep up with changes in ownership in the neighborhood.

[See the list of properties](#) currently scheduled for sale. The list includes the parcel address, ID number, property type (e.g. residential), and owner’s name. As of July 6, there were approximately 150 parcels on this list, but many owners can and often do pay off the debt prior to the sale.

Knoxville and Knox County cooperate on their sales by making the minimum bid include taxes due from both city and county.

To see the property taxes due and other information, just enter the Parcel ID Number or address in the [city](#) or [county](#) online tax search programs.

Also on August 2, the City of Knoxville is holding its Tax Sale 9c for six properties owned by Scotty Boatman and/or Kristi Boatman. These are 5004 McIntyre Road and an adjacent lot in Alice Bell Spring Hill; 2328 Lawson Avenue in Belle Morris; and 4728 Holston Drive, a nearby adjacent lot, and 5100 Wyndcroft Drive in Holston Hills.

These six properties were originally scheduled for Tax Sale 9 last summer but were delayed. Some overdue city taxes were paid last fall, but as of July 1, the taxes, penalties and interest owed for these six parcels total \$13,068 to the city and \$32,947 to the county.

8. State Taking Comment on Science Building at Knoxville College

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) last week conducted a public meeting to gather public input on its tentative proposal to add Knoxville College's A.K. Stewart Science Building to its list of inactive hazardous substance sites. (See [June 21, 2016, Neighborhood Advisory](#)).

The reason TDEC is considering this action is that the facility is no longer being used, and mercury present on the site "poses or may reasonably pose a threat to health and the environment," according to TDEC's [Notice of Rulemaking Hearing](#).

Approximately 40 people attended the public meeting, including some residents of the nearby Mechanicsville and Lonsdale neighborhoods as well as representatives of Knoxville College.

In addition to the oral and written testimony received at the hearing, TDEC will take additional written comment until 4:30 p.m. (CST) Thursday, July 21. Submit comments to Tim Stewart, TDEC Division of Remediation, William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 14th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

If the building is added to the state list, TDEC could then take any one of several enforcement actions. For example, TDEC could "issue an order to any liable or potentially liable party...to contain, clean up, monitor and maintain inactive hazardous substance sites."

9. Group Issues 16th Biennial Study on Homelessness

The Knoxville Knox County Homeless Coalition has completed the 16th biennial study on homelessness in Knoxville and Knox County.

Of the 249 homeless individuals interviewed last January, 15% were veterans, 35% have been victims of crime while homeless, 47% have chronic health problems, 65% reported treatment for mental health, 77% slept in emergency shelters, and 31% reported living in locations not meant for human habitation (street, car, public place).

For more detail, see the [full report](#) or the one-page [executive summaries](#) of both the biennial report and the annual report of the Knoxville Homeless Management Information System.

In addition, to stay current on the quarter-to-quarter progress made by homeless service providers in Knoxville, see the Knoxville [Community Dashboard on Homelessness](#).

10. CAC Taking Applications for Community Leadership Class

The Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) is seeking applicants for its 30th Community Leadership class.

To learn more or to apply, [visit this page](#) on the CAC website. Interested persons can email communityleadership@knoxcac.org.

Detailed information and applications are also available at CAC Neighborhood Centers and the CAC Central Office located at 2247 Western Ave. The application deadline is Friday, August 12. For more, contact Lori Galbraith at 776-0094.

11. Dow Knoxville Seeks Applicants for \$25,000 Grant

The Dow Chemical Company, Knoxville Operations, is now soliciting non-profit (501 (c) 3) organizations within Knox County to apply for the annual Dow Gives Community Grant. Neighborhoods without their 501 (c) 3 would need to partner with a 501 (c) 3 fiscal sponsor.

A \$25,000 grant will be awarded to a project that will create a visible, long-term, sustainable benefit for residents --- preferably within a three-mile radius of Dow Knoxville Operations, 730 Dale Ave, Knoxville, TN 37921.

Organizations interested in applying must visit the Dow Knoxville Operations website at www.dow.com/tennessee. No paper applications will be accepted. The website includes "new" information regarding the application process, selection criteria, and a list of past Dow Gives Community Grant recipients.

Applications will be accepted only from July 15 through August 19.

Tip: Print the application and gather the requested information requested before you begin to enter your information electronically.

Within the 16 years that the grant has been awarded, a total of \$435,000 has funded organizations that have contributed to the success of the local community with the objective of making Knoxville a better place to live and work.

Neighborhood associations that applied for and won this grant in the past include West View Community Action Group, Old Mechanicsville Neighborhood Interest, Old North Knoxville, and South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association.

12. Ride KAT to Downtown Saturday; Ride Back for Free

This is Try Transit week, and Knoxville Area Transit ([KAT](#)) has something in mind 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.

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.

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 Market Square.

View the [How to Ride video](#).

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 scCook@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>*
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