



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 30 – Tuesday, August 16, 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. Save the Date: 2017 Neighborhood Conference

Make plans now to participate in the City of Knoxville's 2017 Neighborhood Conference, which will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

This conference --- which attracted some 700 participants in 2015 --- offers workshops on a wide variety of neighborhood issues and topics, along with information booths from various nonprofit and governmental agencies.

Other features include door prizes, an awards luncheon where the winner of the Good Neighbor of the Year is announced, and an opportunity to meet with other neighborhood advocates, elected officials, and the directors and managers of various city departments.

Although no firm schedule has been decided, this conference typically gets underway at 8 a.m. and lasts until about 2:30 p.m. Please mark March 11 on your calendar, and plan on bringing a carload of your neighbors!

2. Inskip to Celebrate Launch of Community Garden

Inskip Community Association this weekend will celebrate the start of a community garden planned in partnership with Inskip Elementary School and the University of Tennessee.

The celebration will be held from 6-8 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 20, on the grounds of Inskip Elementary, 4701 High School Road.

Activities will include games, live entertainment, food trucks ([Vol Dogs](#) and [Kona Ice](#)), and more. This is great time to meet your neighbors, find out what the community schools are doing at Inskip, and see how the community is aiding in these projects.

Gardening can be educational and therapeutic, provide healthy snacks, and bring communities together. These are some of the goals of the community garden project, which received support from the Neighborhoods Small Grants Program administered by the Office of Neighborhoods.

Inskip Elementary, a community school through UT's [University-Assisted Community Schools](#), has been working in combination with the neighborhood association to model their garden after the one at Pond Gap Elementary.

The rain date for the event is Saturday, August 27. To learn more, make suggestions, and/or volunteer, contact Charice Starr at 659-0753 or charice.starr@gmail.com.

3. Attend the Family Safety and Preparedness Fair

No one wants to think that a disaster will strike their families or community, but disasters do strike and always unexpectedly.

Is your family prepared for a disaster? Would you like to learn HOW to be prepared? Do you want to take a peek inside an emergency vehicle? Learn which foods to purchase when preparing for a disaster? How to preserve your home-grown food? How to react to an active shooter situation?

To get answers to these and many other questions, plan on attending the Family Safety and Preparedness Fair on Saturday, August 27, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at World's Fair Park. Admission is free.

This fair will included 60 booths, displays, classes and demonstrations that can educate you and your family about food storage, pet safety, emergency plans, producing your own off-the-grid energy, and much more. Vendors will include the Knoxville Fire Dept., Rural Metro, American Red Cross of East Tennessee, Knox County Sheriff's Office, CAC, HAM Radio operators, and other experts in emergency preparedness and disaster response.

Look for the Office of Neighborhoods booth, where you can join the Neighborhood Emergency Contacts Network, learn about the Emergency Preparedness Speaker Series, and pick up a copy of the Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Plan.

This fair will also include food vendors, a children's area, and free goodies given out by many of the booths. Visit <http://prepfair.org/> for details.

4. City Meets with Advisory Council on Short-Term Rentals

City officials last week met with the Neighborhood Advisory Council to present the City's initial thoughts about regulating short-term rental properties such as those rented by vacationers through online services such as Airbnb.com.

Here is the [Power Point slide show](#) presented by Crista Cucarro of the City Law Department along with Dr. Bill Lyons, deputy to the Mayor and chief policy officer, and Jesse Fox Mayshark, director of communications.

In addition, Community Television of Knoxville (CTV) taped the meeting, and the video is now posted on the CTV website. Browse to <http://www.ctvknox.org/>. In the middle column, under "web stream," click on City Government and then on "Neighborhood Advisory Council_Aug1016."

Note that CTV also tapes many other meetings, including last Thursday's presentation on the expansion of the city greenway system and Mayor Madeline Rogero's August 15 press conference on elder abuse.

5. AmeriCorps Members Join City Departments, TPO

Four new members of AmeriCorps will be working with city departments and the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) this year.

Working in the City's Community Development Department and Office of Neighborhoods, Wyatt Pless will be in charge of the [Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program](#), succeeding Rebecca McIver in that role. He will be working with emergency services and city neighborhood organizations to expand the Neighborhood Emergency Contact Network, provide neighborhoods with speakers from emergency services, and develop neighborhood-level emergency preparedness plans.

Wyatt will also be working on the 2017 Neighborhood Conference, this weekly newsletter and other activities and programs of the Office of Neighborhoods. He hails from Magalia, California, about 90 miles north of Sacramento in the state's Central Valley. He graduated from California State University at Chico in 2015 with a B.A. in history and a certificate in urban and rural planning. He can be reached at 215-3456 or wpless@knoxvilletn.gov.

Kevin Ridder will work in the City's Solid Waste office, visiting schools and local organizations, creating public service announcements, and promoting recycling. He grew up in Brentwood, Tenn., and graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Geology and Environmental Studies, with a concentration in Journalism. He freelances for the Knoxville News Sentinel and plays the trombone.

Sophia Etienne will serve her AmeriCorps year in the City's Office of Sustainability, where she will be working to update the City's emissions inventory and spearheading sustainability-related education efforts. A native of Santa Claus, Indiana, she holds a bachelor's degree in Public Health from the University of Evansville and plans to attend

graduate school at Indiana University to earn a Master's in epidemiology and non-profit management.

At TPO, Jon Sharp will, manage the Bicycling Ambassadors program, implement a Train the Trainer program for the K-8 bicycle and pedestrian safety curriculum, conduct bicycle and pedestrian counts, and serve as the volunteer coordinator for Open Streets Knoxville. He has an Urban Planning degree from Michigan State University and has interned with the City of Pittsburg's Bicycle Program.

The 40 AmeriCorps members deployed in the Knoxville region are sponsored by the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) with support from its partner agencies.

Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is a national program placing committed volunteers in service oriented positions at schools, nonprofits, government agencies, and faith-based organizations. Over 75,000 members serve around the country each year. Members assist local communities in dealing with environmental issues, community development, food security and disaster relief.

6. Blight Hearings Rescheduled

The August 26 and September 30 Public Officer Hearings have been combined into one hearing that will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday, September 9, in the Small Assembly Room.

The Public Officer --- David Brace, senior director of public works --- hears testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. He then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Properties on the agenda are reported in this space each month.

7. City Ponders Comments on Traffic Safety Program

The City of Knoxville still plans to launch a new Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program this year and is in the process of reviewing citizen comments received last May.

In early May, the City published a [draft guide](#) for the new program and then received public comment by email, at two public meetings, and via an online survey.

"It was our intention to process all of the comments, make possible changes to the program as a result of those comments, and then launch the program in July," stated Neighborhood Coordinator David Massey in a recent message to those who submitted comments. "In retrospect, this was an ambitious schedule. We still expect to launch the program this year, but we continue to pore over your comments and consider tweaks to the program."

In the meantime, the Office of Neighborhoods and the Engineering Department have released the 161 pages of comments. To view and download electronic copies of the comments, browse to <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/trafficsafety>. Those without Internet access can request a hard copy of the comments by calling Massey at 215-3232.

The City expects to issue a summary of all comments along with staff responses sometime in September and to launch the program later in the fall. Once the program is launched, neighborhoods can then begin submitting applications for traffic safety studies.

Questions may be directed to Steve King, Deputy Director of Engineering, at 215-4993 or sking@knoxvilletn.gov, and to David Massey, neighborhood coordinator, at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

8. Fight the Bite: A Neighborhood Call to Arms

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is urging all residents to take an active role in helping decrease the mosquito population in their neighborhoods.

Wearing an insect repellent with DEET and removing standing water are two easy ways to cut down on the mosquito population and the spread of disease.

Female mosquitoes need less than an inch of stagnant water to lay their eggs. It takes around seven to ten days for a mosquito egg to hatch into an adult, so any item that holds water for more than seven days becomes an inviting habitat for mosquito reproduction. Preventing mosquitoes from laying their eggs is always a better option than treatment.

Work with your neighbors and neighborhood association. Conduct weekly surveys of your own yards and remove standing water, and also offer to help monitor the properties of others who are unable. Activities such as cleaning out gutters, removing trash, and dumping containers that hold water may prove to be too cumbersome for some.

Bird baths are fine --- as long as the water is changed every two or three days.

The Aedes mosquito --- the one capable of transmitting the Zika virus --- will only travel about 200 yards from where it hatches during its short lifetime. So focusing on your neighborhood will help reduce your own risk as well.

Tennessee is home to many types of mosquitoes, which are capable of transmitting several serious diseases. At this time, mosquitoes in Tennessee are not transmitting Zika virus disease, which has been associated with birth defects. Mosquitoes here, however, are known carriers of other diseases seen each year in Tennessee, including West Nile virus and La Crosse encephalitis.

More information can be found at www.knoxcounty.org/health/mosquitoes.

9. Neighborhood and Government Calendar (clickable to online calendar)

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

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.

Other Calendars

Here are several other online calendars that cover events outside of the neighborhood realm:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Birdhouse Community Center](#)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)
- [Knoxville Mercury](#) (weekly community paper)
- [Visit Knoxville](#) (Official Convention & Visitors Bureau for Knoxville and Knox County)

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.*