



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 36 – Tuesday, October 4, 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. Annual Chili Fest This Thursday in Cumberland Estates

Cumberland Estates West Neighborhood Watch will hold its annual chili fest from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. this coming Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Cumberland Estates Recreation Center on Silverhill Drive.

All are invited to participate. Neighbors have been asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share, or to donate a pot of chili. For more, contact Anna Compton at 599-0724 or amcompto@gmail.com.

2. Tour Historic Homes in Parkridge This Saturday

The **Parkridge Community Organization** (PCO) is conducting a home tour this Saturday, Oct. 8, as part of the City of Knoxville's 225th anniversary celebration.

The "Edgewood / Park City Home Tour" features a variety of homes with a focus on houses designed by George F. Barber, Knoxville's famous Victorian era architect.

The homes were built from the 1890's through the 1920's. In addition, a walking tour of about 30 homes not open to the public will be offered. The walking tour will focus on the history of the Barber-designed homes and their former occupants.

The tour will take place from 1-6 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$10 per person if purchased in advance at Last Days of Autumn Brewery, Three Rivers Market, or through PayPal via PCO's website at <https://parkridgecommunity.wordpress.com/home-tour/>.

Tickets cost \$12 per person on Saturday. Children under 12 are admitted for free. Parking is available at the Ashley Nicole Park, 620 Winona Street, where a ticket booth will be located. Tickets can be purchased until 4 p.m. on tour day. Be advised that walking is necessary, and many houses have steps. Parkridge is a bikeable neighborhood, and tour-goers are welcome to ride bicycles.

Not to be confused with the Edgewood Park neighborhood off North Broadway, "Edgewood / Park City" is the name of both the national historic district and the smaller H-1 overlay district within Parkridge. At PCO's request, City Council has asked the Metropolitan Planning Commission to propose an expansion of the H-1 overlay district. MPC's survey of historic properties in the expansion area is complete, and discussions will follow with PCO and the Historic Zoning Commission. City Council must ultimately approve any zoning changes.

For more detail on the tour or the historic districts, see the [PCO website](#) or contact historicparkridge@gmail.com or Jennifer Montgomery at 865-406-4364.

Monday, October 3, was the City of Knoxville's 225th birthday. For details about other birthday events, see 225.VisitKnoxville.com.

3. Burlington Residents, Town Hall East Oppose Cell Tower

Two East Knoxville neighborhood organizations have issued statements opposing a Verizon Wireless cell phone tower at the corner of Holston Drive and Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

Verizon has asked the Metropolitan Planning Commission for use-on-review approval of a 125-foot-tall monopole at 4105 Holston Drive, where the Amvets Thrift Store is located along with a very large parking lot. Materials related to the request are contained in this PDF file on the MPC website:

http://agenda.knoxmpc.org/packages/9-B-16-UR_pkg.pdf

"We have had discussion on this issue with the Verizon representative for the proposed project," stated Kimberley Fowler, president of **Burlington Residents Association** (BRA). "In this age of technology we understand that cell phone towers are necessary. However, we remain in opposition to having the cell phone tower placed at the designated location in our neighborhood.

"Burlington is embarking upon revitalization and being recognized as a national historic district," Fowler continued. "Erecting the cell phone tower at the proposed site will greatly diminish the aesthetics of the area and may well be a deterrent to potential new businesses, perchance decreasing property values.

"BRA feels that there are alternative, less intrusive locations right in the same vicinity for the cell phone tower to be erected and that those alternative locations should be looked

at by Verizon. We hope that MPC and City Council will support our community in our opposition to the proposed location and stand with us on locating a more practical site that will very well serve the same purpose.”

Meanwhile, Doug Toppenberg, president of **Town Hall East** (THE), distributed a detailed, five-page letter to the “members, neighbors and friends” of THE. In the letter, Toppenberg noted that several government officials have stated that there is little a neighborhood group can do to fight cell phone towers that are given extraordinary license under federal law.

But Toppenberg listed 11 reasons why the use-on-review application should be denied for the requested location. For example, the letter states that regulations require a “fall zone” setback distance equal to 110% of the height of the tower. A Hardee’s restaurant is located in this zone, but no residences, the letter notes. However, if approved as is, the use-on-review would allow Verizon to add another 25 feet to the tower at a later date. In that event, residences would be located within the fall zone, Toppenberg says.

[See a copy of the Town Hall East letter.](#) To keep up with the Verizon application and THE filings with MPC, revisit the MPC agenda link prior to the Oct. 13 MPC meeting.

4. RiverHill Gateway to Celebrate Sculpture, Sign

The **RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association** is throwing a party to celebrate the installation of a unique art sculpture and a neighborhood sign created by artist [Derek White](#).

The event will take place at 200 East Hill Avenue (corner of East Hill and Volunteer Landing Lane) starting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13. There will be music by the “Dirty Dougs.” Light refreshments will be provided. “This is a celebration of gratitude to all the city departments, local businesses, non-profits, and residents who worked together to make this possible,” the neighborhood group said.

Be advised that the Hill Avenue Bridge is closed to vehicle traffic but open to pedestrians. Parking is available at Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame.

RiverHill raised the funds for the first part of White’s reflective stainless steel sculpture, called “ki-net-ik”, which eventually will feature outdoor activities along the river front.

For more, contact Kaye Bultemeier, president of the association, at 504-940-8952 or kayebultemeier@gmail.com.

5. Open Streets Moves to West Knoxville

Join your Knoxville neighbors in the streets for the third edition of Open Streets Knoxville from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, October 9.

Hosted by Bike Walk Knoxville, Open Streets takes place in Bearden on Sutherland Avenue (between Forest Heights Road and Cemetery Road), on Mohican Street (both north and south of Kingston Pike), and throughout the Homburg area. [See the map.](#)

If you plan to drive to this event, here are suggestions on [where to park](#). Also, why not [take the bus](#)?

Over 50 organizations will have booths and activities. These include the **Forest Heights Homeowners Association** (chalk art and nature games), Hard Knox Roller Girls, UT Medical Center (healthy living program), Knox County Safe Routes to Schools Partnership (bicycle rodeo), the Kickstand Bike Collective (bike rentals), the Knoxville Zoo (animals!), and various other purveyors of fitness and exercise as well as arts and crafts.

There will also be live music, and retail businesses on and near the closed streets will be open and looking for customers.

With the support of the City of Knoxville's police and engineering departments, the streets are closed to vehicular traffic so that pedestrians and bicyclists can use public spaces in a new way. The two previous Open Streets events were held along North Central Street.

For more, see <http://openstreetsknoxville.com/>, call Linda Rader at 865-388-0368 or email gray2527@bellsouth.net.

6. NAC Meeting to Focus on Human Trafficking

The [Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking](#) will provide the guest speaker at the October meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Council at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine St.

An estimated 27 million people are enslaved around the world today. This is more people enslaved than in any other time in history. Human trafficking is the second most lucrative criminal industry worldwide, after drug trafficking, bringing in approximately \$32 billion annually. And it is happening in the U.S. as well.

NAC members requested the session to better understand the problem, learn what to look for, and know what to do if human trafficking is suspected in the community.

The [NAC](#), appointed by the Mayor, meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except December) to discuss topics that affect Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. NAC meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

7. Leaders to Discuss Starting, Sustaining a Neighborhood Organization

On Thursday next week, the leaders of five recently formed neighborhood groups will describe how their organizations began and discuss their challenges and accomplishments to date.

Anyone interested in learning how to start a neighborhood group is encouraged to attend.

The workshop, sponsored by the Office of Neighborhoods, will take place on Thursday evening, Oct. 13, at United Way, 1301 Hannah Avenue. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The session will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and end no later than 8 p.m. There will be ample time for questions.

The panelists and their neighborhood groups are:

- ** Michelle Neal, **Our Community Organization** (East Knoxville);
- ** Christine Griffin, **Historic Sutherland Heights Neighborhood Association** (near West High School);
- ** Jennifer Reynolds, **Timbercrest Neighborhood Association** (off Lonas Drive);
- ** Kelley DeLuca, **Lindbergh Forest Neighborhood Association** (off Chapman Highway in South Knoxville); and
- ** Matt McMillan, **Adair Gardens Residents Association** (off Broadway in Fountain City).

8. Be Prepared --- as a Neighborhood --- if Disaster Strikes

Disasters can occur at any time, and it is critically important not to be caught off guard when they do.

Stocking your home with supplies in case of a city-wide emergency is a great start, but preparing your whole community is even better.

As many neighborhood organizations have discovered, we are stronger together. There is no time more important to be a united community, than when there is an emergency. The Emergency Preparedness Program operated by the Office of Neighborhoods has three main components to help your neighborhood prepare for the worst.

The **Emergency Preparedness Speaker Series** is designed to introduce your community to local emergency experts. You can arrange for speakers to come to your neighborhood or community meeting. They will cover topics ranging from fire safety to preparing for tornadoes or floods. The Speaker Series partners include the Knoxville Knox County Emergency Management Agency (KEMA), Knox County Health Department, KFD, KPD, KUB, and the Red Cross. [See this brochure](#) for details.

The **Emergency Contact Network** --- operated by the Office of Neighborhoods in partnership with KEMA --- is a group of Knoxville citizens who are willing to be contacted during a widespread emergency. The job of these volunteers is to report on the status of their neighborhoods when called upon. Reporting to the Emergency Operations Center about conditions in your area will allow emergency officials to see the big picture during a time when it is difficult to make neighborhood by neighborhood assessments.

The **Neighborhood Preparedness Plan** makes it easier for you and your neighbors to plan, in advance, how you will handle a disaster if emergency services cannot get to you in the first 24 to 72 hours. The key component of this plan is simply to get to know your neighbors; everything else flows from there.

It is important to have a plan in place so that your neighborhood has a place to meet during an emergency, knows who will likely need assistance, can communicate if phones are out, and so on. A neighborhood plan provides experience and practice to help everyone remain calm in the hours following an emergency. The plan explains how to pool resources, supplies and skill sets.

A neighborhood preparedness plan further strengthens the ties among neighbors and creates a web of trust throughout the community.

For more information about these programs, visit [this web page](#) and contact Wyatt Pless at 215-3456 or wpless@knoxvillekn.gov.

9. Learn More: Central Street and Jackson Avenue Upgrades

Two major street and utility upgrades projects will be the focus of a public meeting at Central United Methodist Church, 201 E. Third Avenue, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13.

The City of Knoxville's Redevelopment and Engineering departments, along with Knoxville Utilities Board, will explain the projects, both of which will begin this month.

In late October, KUB will begin to replace more than 8,800 feet of water main and 26 fire hydrants along 12 City blocks of North Central Street between the Old City railroad tracks and Woodland Avenue.

Then, before the end of 2016, the City will start its streetscape portion of the project – sidewalk improvements, new curbs, “bulb outs” and other features to improve pedestrian safety; better-defined on-street parking; better-marked bike lanes; landscaping; and resurfacing.

The streetscape project will include a new linear park between Pearl Place and Baxter Avenue – a block with enhanced landscaping, benches and other amenities. For background, see <http://www.knoxvillekn.gov/centralstreet>. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017.

Also at the Oct. 13 meeting: KUB and City officials will update Old City stakeholders on an infrastructure upgrade, estimated to cost less than \$2 million, on a section of West Jackson Avenue between North Broadway and the ramp to South Gay Street.

KUB in mid-October will begin replacing water main, fire hydrants, natural gas main and sewer infrastructure. City streetscape improvements will follow next spring, including a wider sidewalk that will serve patrons of businesses on the south side of West Jackson. For more details, visit <http://www.knoxvillekn.gov/jacksonavenue>.

10. City Ponders Regulation of Short Term Rentals

The City of Knoxville has scheduled a public meeting to obtain citizen feedback on a proposal by city staff to regulate, for the first time in Knoxville, short-term rentals brokered by online services such as Airbnb and Vacation Rentals by Owner (VRBO).

The meeting will be held starting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, at Central United Methodist Church, 201 Third Avenue, in the Fourth & Gill neighborhood.

Proposed regulations will address issues such as zoning (where such rentals can occur), collection of hotel/motel tax, and safety. Questions will be addressed, and comments and feedback will be welcomed.

Any new regulations would have to be considered by the Metropolitan Planning Commission and then adopted by City Council in the form of an ordinance, requiring two separate Council meetings to pass and become law.

A document outlining the issues involved, along with possible regulatory approaches, will be posted on the city's website prior to the meeting.

[11. Neighborhood and Government Calendar](#) (clickable to online calendar)

Call 215-4382 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

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.

Other Calendars

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

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [Birdhouse Community Center](#)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)
- [Knoxville Mercury](#) (weekly community paper)

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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