



**Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 44 – Tuesday, December 6, 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. Holiday Schedule for This Newsletter**

The Office of Neighborhoods will publish this Neighborhood Advisory newsletter one more time in December -- on Tuesday, Dec. 13 – and then take a holiday break until the Jan. 3, 2017, issue. Deadline for the Dec. 13 issue will be 9 a.m. that day. Neighborhood-related calendar items can be submitted at any time.

## **2. Is Your Home Adequately Insured?**

Reports from area homebuilders suggest that the loss of homes in the recent fires in Gatlinburg may be doubly serious for some residents.

According to some members of the [Home Builders Association of Greater Knoxville](#), some Gatlinburg area residents who lost their homes are finding that their homeowners insurance does not cover full replacement costs.

First, labor and materials cost can be higher than anticipated. Moreover, it may be more costly to build the same structure in the same location because of changes in building codes since a house was originally constructed.

If you own your home, now is a good time to pull out your insurance policy and go over it carefully. If you need help compiling the right questions to ask your insurance agent,

the [Insurance Information Institute](#) may be able to provide some help. [This article](#) on the Institute's website supplies details on the subject, and the article also can be downloaded in the form of a PDF brochure. Neighborhood groups may wish to print the brochure for distribution at neighborhood meetings.

Both renters and homeowners may also find useful information on this [Homeowners and Renters Insurance](#) page on the Institute's website. Thanks to Peter Ahrens of the Plans Review & Inspections Department and Kevin Shires of TIS Insurance Services for their help composing this article.

### **3. How to Attract New Members to Your Neighborhood Association**

"How to Attract New Members to Your Neighborhood Group" is the topic for the next monthly workshop offered by the Office of Neighborhoods.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, Dec. 8, 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. Snacks will be provided. Bring your own water bottle. Seating is limited. If you plan to attend, please notify David Massey at [dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-3232.

### **4. Call for Vols!**

As many of you know, the Office of Neighborhoods depends heavily on volunteers to ensure the success of The Neighborhood Conference, and the 2017 gathering is no different.

The Neighborhood Conference will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017, from 7:30 a.m., when doors open for early arrivals, until 2:30 p.m., when the last door prize has been given away. Volunteers will be needed before, during, and after this event. Some of the volunteer job duties are:

- \*\* Administrative – Help make copies, stuff folders, make nametags, etc.
- \*\* Registration – Help attendees get their name tags, resources, etc.
- \*\* Greeters – Answer questions, give directions, etc.
- \*\* Workshop Moderators – Introduce speakers, field questions, help manage time.
- \*\* Workshop Hosts – Make sure room is in order, hand out surveys, etc.
- \*\* Lunch Ticket Takers – Check lunch tickets of people entering ballroom.
- \*\* Door Prize Team – Help manage door prizes and drawing.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these duties, please contact Wyatt Pless either by phone, 215-3456, or by email, [wpless@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:wpless@knoxvilletn.gov).

Each person can choose one of three dates for volunteer training prior to the conference: Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m.; Thursday, March, 2, 10-12 noon; or Sunday, March 5, 2-4 p.m.

### **5. Go for it! Enter the Neighborhood Tee Shirt Contest!**

It is time to start thinking of ideas for your neighborhood tee shirt.

At the 2013 and 2015 Neighborhood Conferences, neighborhoods have engaged in a friendly competition to see who could design the best tee shirt. The contest is on again for the next conference on Saturday, March 11, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

This contest is a great way to find the artists in your community. It is also a fun project that everyone can help with, including the youth of your community. Bring up this topic at your next neighborhood meeting and start coming up with ideas. Celebrity judges will be selected to choose first, second and third place winners.

Tee shirts can represent the pride your neighborhood organization has for its community. If you are unsure about tee shirt designs, hold a brain-storming session and ask everyone what makes your neighborhood unique, what you love about it, and what you hope it will become in the future. Design ideas will flow from that discussion.

Existing tee shirts are also eligible, not just ones that are newly designed. Previous winners, however, are not eligible. If your group needs advice on finding an artist or approaching a tee shirt company, contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382.

## **6. Volunteer for the Emergency Contact Network**

Help your community during an emergency by becoming the eyes and ears of our community's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

### **What Is the Contact Network?**

The Emergency Contact Network --- created by KEMA (Knoxville Knox County Emergency Management Agency) and the City's Office of Neighborhoods --- is a group of volunteers who agree to report conditions in their neighborhoods during a widespread emergency or disaster.

### **How does it Work?**

During an emergency, someone from the EOC uses text or email to ask Network volunteers to report on their current surroundings. This information is compiled with other reports to give the EOC a clearer picture of the crisis. The EOC may need data about a range of emergencies from tornadoes and fires, to straight-line winds and ice storms, to manmade disasters.

### **Why is this Important?**

When a disaster strikes, effective communication can be very difficult. It is important for emergency personnel to receive every possible bit of information to understand the extent of the crisis and allocate resources more effectively. Information from news outlets is not timely enough. Citizen involvement can make a huge difference. The recent fires in Gatlinburg have highlighted the importance of being prepared for any disaster. This program offers citizens a meaningful way to help their community.

To join the Network, contact Wyatt Pless at [wpless@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:wpless@knoxvilletn.gov) or at 215-3456.

## **7. City Will Consider Neighborhood Entrance Signs in City ROW**

Neighborhood organizations have a new option for installing neighborhood entrance signs, but a city permit is still required.

Neighborhood entrance signs are community assets for a variety of reasons. An attractive and well-maintained entrance sign is a point of pride for residents. Designing, building, and maintaining an entrance sign is a community activity that brings neighbors together. Entrance signs serve as way-finding landmarks. Entrance signs help drivers understand that they have entered a residential neighborhood and need to slow down.

Like all signs, neighborhood entrance signs require a city permit. Historically this has been limited to a sign located on private property, outside of the city's right-of-way (ROW). To place a sign legally, a neighborhood group must submit an application to the Plans Review & Inspections Department, pay a permit fee of at least \$75, and conform to certain height, size, and setback requirements.

For the first time, however, the City will now consider permitting neighborhood entrance signs in city ROW. The same size and height requirements apply, but the only setback requirement is that the sign cannot block the sight distance of drivers using roadways near the sign. Sign posts must be made of wood, and electrical conduit cannot run through city ROW to illuminate the sign. Also, the permit fee for a sign in city ROW will be about \$20 per sign.

It is not anticipated that a lot of signs will qualify for placement in the ROW, but this may turn out to be a very useful option for some neighborhoods.

For complete details on permitting neighborhood entrance signs on private property and within city ROW, [see this page on the Office of Neighborhoods website](#). Please read these materials before contacting David Massey, Office of Neighborhoods, 215-3232 or [dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov), with any questions.

Individuals without Internet access can contact David for hard copies of the forms and instructions.

## **8. City seeks public input on bike projects**

The City of Knoxville will hold a public meeting on four bike infrastructure projects this coming Thursday, Dec. 8, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the new Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Ave. (corner of Morris and Lorraine just one block south of Middlebrook Pike).

Jon Livengood, the City's Alternative Transportation Engineer, and representatives from Kimley-Horn and Toole Design Group will present design proposals for four projects. Some locations have more than one option, so suggestions/comments will be helpful in deciding on the preferred design.

\*\*\* Chapman Highway, between Woodlawn Pike/Fort Dickerson and the Henley Bridge: This project may also include improvements to the existing bike lanes on the bridge. It's

a key connection between downtown and several South Knoxville neighborhoods and destinations.

\*\*\* Middlebrook Pike, between Proctor Street and Western Avenue/University Avenue: This will connect the existing bike lanes on University Avenue with the Middlebrook Pike greenway – extending an east-west bike route.

\*\*\* Woodland Avenue, between Broadway and existing bike lanes on Woodland: This connection also will tie into the new First Creek Greenway extension to be constructed next year.

\*\*\* Adair Drive, linking to Old Broadway: This will provide a safer route for bicyclists trying to bypass the heavily congested section of North Broadway at the Interstate 640 interchange.

## **9. Get Ready for Tour de Lights**

Make plans now to participate in the 10th Annual Tour de Lights bike parade on Friday evening, Dec. 16.

The event, sponsored by the City of Knoxville and I Bike Knox, starts at Market Square and winds through the Fourth and Gill and Old North Knoxville neighborhoods before returning to Market Square. Roads are closed by the Police Department for public safety. The event is free and open to everyone. Mast General Store and Three Rivers Market will also provide hot cocoa and treats. Everyone is encouraged to dress up and decorate their bikes.

If you want to enter the bike decorating contest, arrive early so the judges have time to see you. Costumes and decorations judging will occur between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will be prizes for best costume, bike, helmet, and group decorations. For more information and photos from past years, visit <http://www.ibikeknx.com/tourdelights>.

## **10. MPC to Table Mixed Use Zoning Ordinance**

The proposed Bearden mixed use zone is on this Thursday's agenda at the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) --- not to advance to City Council but to be tabled indefinitely.

MPC meets at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 8 in the Large Assembly Room at the City County Building. View the [MPC agenda for December](#).

The 41-page mixed use ordinance was the subject of several large public meetings and extensive public input. [See background on the mixed use ordinance](#).

According to MPC staff, the tabling “will allow staff adequate time to develop and present alternative methods for permitting residential uses in commercially zoned properties in the Bearden area.”

The staff report further states: “On November 17, 2016, City Council had a workshop to discuss the requested zoning revisions to allow residential uses in commercially zoned areas of the Bearden area... City Council expressed preference of having the proposed Mixed Use District zoning considered as part of the pending comprehensive zoning ordinance update and to develop an alternative method of permitting the desired mixed use development pattern under the existing zoning districts. An undetermined time frame will be required to develop the alternative zoning amendment, which is the reason for the recommended tabling.”

To view a videotape of the Council workshop, visit the Community TV website at <http://www.ctvknox.org/>, find the “web stream” box in the middle of the page, and click on City Council. This will produce a list of videos; click on the Workshop held on Nov. 17, 2016.

#### **11. Knoxville Neighborhoods 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 [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact the City Law Department at 865-215-2050.

#### **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>*
- \*\* Don’t have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*