

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 45 – Tuesday, December 13, 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. Neighborhood Conference Gains Its First Five Sponsors**

The Office of Neighborhoods is pleased to announce the first five sponsors of the city-wide Neighborhood Conference that will be held on Saturday, March 11, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

For the third conference year, [Waste Connections of Tennessee](#) will be a lunch sponsor, and [Home Federal Bank](#) will be a breakfast sponsor. Both companies were sponsors of the conference in 2013 and 2015.

Also back for the third time are [Coldwell Banker Wallace and Wallace Realtors](#), which has signed on as a gold sponsor, and the [Knoxville Area Association of Realtors](#), which returns as a silver sponsor. Finally, [Dover Development](#) is joining the family of sponsors for the first time, in the bronze category.

Visit their web pages to learn more about these community-spirited organizations. When you get a chance, please thank these organizations for their support of Knoxville's neighborhoods.

Additional sponsors are needed. To learn about sponsorship opportunities, [see this web page](#) or contact David Massey at 215-3232 or [dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov).

### **2. City to Hold Press Conference as Vestal Celebrates New Gateway Arch**

An event in "downtown Vestal" this week will underscore the fact that high quality neighborhood development depends on patience, partnerships, and a lot of hard work.

Mayor Madeline Rogero will lead a city press conference starting at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the corner of W. Martin Mill Pike and Ogle Avenue. She and members of city staff will announce the launch of a 5-person greenways crew, drawn from other sections of the Public Service Department.

The crew will be dedicated to the repair of existing greenways and construction of short greenway extensions. This new work will begin with the construction of a new 0.7-mile extension of the Mary Vestal Greenway from Mary Vestal Park to the Ogle-Martin Mill Pike corner where the press conference will be held.

This corner holds special significance for the **Vestal Community Organization (VCO)**, which has spent several years working on improvements in the area.

It began with a Challenge Grant about four years ago from the City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department. VCO used that money to remove invasive species from Goose Creek, extend the Mary Vestal Greenway, and construct a bridge over the creek at Mary Vestal Park. The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) added matching funds to aid in these projects.

Earlier this year VCO received a \$7,000 Creative Placemaking grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission to construct a gateway arch at the entrance to the new greenway extension. Many others donated time and materials to make the arch a reality, including Gene Burr and Mallia Engineering for design, Gerdau Steel for the rebar that makes up the columns, Ray Tackett Enterprises for the design and fabrication of the archway, and others who will be recognized Wednesday.

Burr and Ben Epperson, then with the Knox County Health Dept. and now with Great Schools Partnership, helped secure the grant.

The next step for VCO is to construct a pavilion and plaza next to the greenway --- amenities for which it was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Neighborhood Small Grant Program administered by the Office of Neighborhoods.

The foundation for some of these improvements was laid years ago when Vestal was an official city redevelopment area, allowing the Community Development Department to make numerous improvements to downtown Vestal in the early 2000s. Improvements included acquisition of the old service station lot at the Ogle/Martin Mill corner and removal of the gasoline tanks, as well as the closure of Chappell Road and removal of pavement on the 0.7-mile corridor that will now be part of the Mary Vestal Greenway.

Community Development's business façade program also helped set the stage for the amenities now being added.

Another key player in this saga was the Aslan Foundation, which funded the [Project for Public Spaces](#) in 2014 to work with neighborhood residents and community partners to identify a vision for the area.

### **3. New garbage carts are rolling out**

As of December 12, just under 20,000 new wheeled garbage carts have been delivered to those who qualify for curbside garbage collection in the City of Knoxville.

Crews will be delivering carts to the remaining 40,000 eligible households before the end of December. The city's Solid Waste Office requests that residents begin using the new carts on Monday, Jan. 2.

Place garbage inside plastic bags. Put the bags in the cart. Roll the cart to your usual pickup location on your pickup day. If you have alley pickup, the city's hauling contractor, Waste Connections, will continue to use the alley even if the cart is delivered to the front of your home.

All garbage should fit inside the container with the lid closed: Please do not put additional bags beside or on top of the cart, or in other containers, because this interrupts the more automated system that will save taxpayer dollars. If you find that your waste is exceeding the 95-gallon cart's capacity, recycling is a great alternative to dispose of some waste and help the environment at the same time. [Sign up here](#).

This is also a good opportunity for neighbors to help other neighbors. If your garbage cart always has extra capacity even with recycling, you might offer to help neighbors who need the extra room.

Solid Waste is very excited to modernize and improve our current collection system! Please go to [www.knoxvilletn.gov/garbage](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/garbage) or call 311 with questions about the new collection system.

### **4. Glass: No at Curbside, Yes at Recycling Centers**

Starting January 1, glass will no longer be accepted in the City of Knoxville's curbside, single-stream, recycling program.

The entire single-stream process—recyclables being dropped into your curbside cart, unloaded in a large compacting truck, dumped on the recycling facility's concrete tipping floor, and sorted on a conveyor belt—causes the glass to break into small pieces, resulting in a very low-quality commodity for which the City's processor can find no market.

Moreover, the shattered glass often contaminates other materials, decreasing their quality and even sending some materials to the landfill.

However, the City can still accept glass separated by color at any of its five recycling drop-off centers, because there is still a market for glass sorted and segregated in this manner.

The City is asking for advice on potential locations for additional drop-off locations. Voice your opinion at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFXV2Q2>.

Here are the current five drop-off locations:  
NORTH: Kroger at I-640 Plaza - 4440 Western Ave.  
SOUTH: Goodwill at W. Moody Ave. - 225 W. Moody Ave.  
EAST: Goodwill at Chilhowee Park - 210 Alice St.  
WEST: Goodwill at Cedar Bluff - 341 Parkvillage Rd.  
DOWNTOWN: Downtown Recycling Center - 227 Willow Ave.

## **5. Great Schools Partnership Seeks Input**

Great Schools Partnership (GSP) has launched an online survey to gather input on what Knox County Schools should focus on to create the best schools in the South.

Please help by [taking the survey](#). Questions should be directed to Bridget Waller at [bwaller@greatschoolspartnership.com](mailto:bwaller@greatschoolspartnership.com).

## **6. Happy Holidays....See You in 2017**

The staff of the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods is calling it quits for this almost weekly newsletter for the rest of 2016, closing out the year at issue number 45. Have a great holiday, safe travels and a prosperous new year. See you again on Tuesday, January 3.

## **6. 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 [scCook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scCook@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>*
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