



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 5 – Tuesday, January 31, 2017

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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. Timbercrest Issues a Wiffle Ball Challenge to Other Neighborhoods

Sparked by an idea from Jennifer Reynolds, the Timbercrest Neighborhood Association is challenging other neighborhood groups to participate in a friendly but competitive Wiffle Ball Tournament later this year.

Jennifer has gained the backing of the City of Knoxville's Parks & Recreation Department. At this time, she is seeking interested neighborhoods.

If you have never heard of or played [Wiffle ball](#), that is okay. This is an opportunity to get together with neighbors, have fun, and get to know residents of other neighborhood groups.

The number of neighborhoods wishing to participate will determine where the event is held. Jennifer is hoping to stage the tournament toward the end of spring or the first part of summer. Please contact Jennifer at jennifer.zubko@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

2. Registration Begins Next Week for March 11 Neighborhood Conference

Preparations are now well underway for The Neighborhood Conference --- now less than six weeks away on Saturday, March 11, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Online registration will begin next Tuesday, Feb. 7, and last four weeks, ending at noon Tuesday, March 7. There is no charge to attend, but all participants must register.

The conference will include a neighborhood tee shirt contest, 22 workshops, over 80 information booths, continental breakfast, a welcome session with Mayors Madeline Rogero and Tim Burchett, special workshops for middle and high school students, a slideshow of neighborhood photographs, time to network with neighborhood activists and government officials, a luncheon that includes the presentation of the Neighbor of the Year Award, and door prizes.

Plan now to attend this event that is designed for the benefit of Knoxville's residential neighborhoods.

3. Eight Residents Nominated for Good Neighbor of the Year Award

Eight Knoxville neighborhood residents were nominated for the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award, and they will be honored at the City of Knoxville's Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, March 11, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

The eight were nominated by their neighbors in response to a call from the Office of Neighborhoods last December. All will be honored, but only one will receive the Award.

Named for the late Diana Conn of the Old Sevier Community, the Award is presented annually to a Knoxville resident who --- in a spirit of cooperation and with commitment to inclusive community --- has devoted time and talent in service to his or her neighbors and neighborhood.

Here are the nominees, their neighborhoods or neighborhood groups, and the person(s) who made the nomination:

--- Gerry Moll, Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization, nominated by Jenny Wright.

--- Grant Barton of downtown Knoxville, nominated by Lynne Miller.

--- Janice Tocher, South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, nominated by Marcia O'Neal.

--- Jenny Wright, Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization, nominated by Gerry Moll.

--- Kaye Bultemeier, RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association, nominated by Helen Bachrach.

--- Linda Rust, South Haven Neighborhood Association, nominated by Janice Tocher.

--- Terry Caruthers, Colonial Village Neighborhood Association, nominated by Carol Blair.

--- Vicki Forester of West Haven Village Neighborhood Community, nominated by Steven Disney and Stuart Hall.

Attend the March 11 conference to find out why these individuals were considered by their peers to be good neighbors... and to see which of them will be named the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year. [Learn more about the Award.](#)

4. Apply to Host an Information Booth at the Conference

The Office of Neighborhoods is accepting applications for exhibition space at The Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, March 11, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Early bird registration has now ended for governmental agencies and nonprofits with a clear neighborhood-related focus. Approximately one dozen spaces remain, and now any group may apply. But the Office of Neighborhoods reserves the right to select organizations whose work is related to neighborhood improvement or neighborhood revitalization in some way.

Booths can be set up from 2-4 p.m. on Friday, March 10, and must be ready when doors open to attendees at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, March 11. The conference lasts until about 2:30 p.m., but booths may be dismantled after 12:15 p.m.

Apply here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/info_booths

The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13. Applicants will be notified no later than Feb. 15. For more information, contact Kirsten Fox at 215-3077 or kfox@knoxvilletn.gov.

5. Two More Sponsors Support The Neighborhood Conference

[Realty Executives Associates](#), a nationwide real estate firm with some 400 agents in Knoxville, and [UT Federal Credit Union](#), which has five locations in Knoxville and Knox County, are the latest companies to sponsor **The Neighborhood Conference** on Saturday, March 11, at the Knoxville Convention Center. Both will be bronze sponsors.

The conference is free to all participants, and this is made possible not only by taxpayer funds but also by the donations of corporate sponsors who are each contributing \$500 to \$3,500 toward this neighborhood supportive event.

As previously announced, [Hatcher-Hill Properties](#) and [Waste Connections of Tennessee](#) are the two lunch sponsors.

[Home Federal Bank](#) is the breakfast sponsor.

Gold sponsors are [Cannon & Cannon Inc.](#) and [Coldwell Banker Wallace and Wallace Realtors](#).

Silver sponsors are [Knoxville Area Association of Realtors](#) and [Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers](#). The other bronze sponsors are [Broadway Carpets](#), [Dover Development](#), [First Tennessee Bank](#), and [TIS Insurance Services](#).

Please visit these sponsors' web pages to learn more about their services. When you get a chance, please thank them for their support of Knoxville's neighborhoods.

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

6. Office of Neighborhoods Gains a Staff Member

Inas Alsarmad has joined the Office of Neighborhoods as a temporary but full-time employee to assist with the production of the [March 11 Neighborhood Conference](#) and other projects through the end of April.

At the outset, she will compile a list of funding resources available to neighborhood organizations from governmental, foundation and corporate sources. The list will be provided as a hand-out at the fund-raising workshop at the conference. If you or your group can contribute ideas or contacts for this list, please get in touch with Inas at ialsarmad@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2113.

Inas is a native of Iraq. She and her husband came to Knoxville about two years ago so that he could work on a PhD from UT in engineering.

In Iraq, Inas worked for a US-based non-governmental organization --- [Global Communities](#) --- that offers micro-finance loans for entrepreneurs. She started as a credit assistant in July of 2005 and rose through the ranks in a male-dominated profession to become a treasury manager in 2013 and 2014. In the latter position, she was responsible for identifying, monitoring, and managing the institution's daily financial position and risks; evaluating new funding sources in Iraq; and monitoring the lending process, foreign exchange, credit, and country risks.

Inas comes to the City by way of a new nonprofit program, [Invest Knoxville](#), whose mission is to locate internships, temporary employment, and long-term employment for immigrants who had professional training and careers in their home countries but who need some resumé-building job experience here.

For more on Invest Knoxville, contact Program Manager Robert Hodge at 865-591-8677 or robert@investknoxville.org. Visit the website at <http://www.investknoxville.org/>.

7. On Facebook? Please Let Us Know

The Office of Neighborhoods is compiling a comprehensive list of city neighborhood organizations that are active on Facebook or that have websites.

We will make sure to include these links in our Neighborhood Directory.

Please send your Facebook and website links to Inas Alsarmad at ialsarmad@knoxvilletn.gov. Thanks!

8. Workshop: Should Neighborhoods Focus on Problems or Assets?

It is not uncommon for attendance at neighborhood meetings to rise dramatically if there is a problem in the neighborhood....and then go right back down if the problem goes away or seems to be too difficult to tackle.

What happens when a neighborhood organization focuses solely on “problems” in the neighborhood? What would happen if attention is focused on the neighborhood’s assets? What is a neighborhood’s most important asset?

These will be among the questions posed and discussed at this month’s installment of the “Building Strong Neighborhood Organizations” monthly workshop series.

The workshop will be held Thursday evening, Feb. 9, at a location still to be determined. City neighborhood groups are invited to attend and participate, as are individuals who are thinking about starting a neighborhood organization. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, but bring your own water. The workshop will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and last no later than 8 p.m.

If you plan to attend, please notify David Massey at dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-3232 to find out about the meeting location.

9. Emergency Contact Network Now Uses Text Messaging

The Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) --- in partnership with the City’s Office of Neighborhoods --- is now using text messaging to communicate with members of the Emergency Contact Network.

The Network is composed of volunteers throughout Knoxville and Knox County who make themselves available to report on conditions in their neighborhoods during widespread emergencies.

“We have previously relied on phone calls or emails to contact our volunteers during an emergency,” explained Wyatt Pless, an AmeriCorps member who works on the project from the Office of Neighborhoods. “However, these two methods are not necessarily reliable if there are downed power and phone lines. Text messages often get through even if voice communications are down.”

Thanks to an app that can be used for such communications, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) can now send a mass text message to every volunteer and receive reports through the app. This will greatly decrease the time needed to send and receive reports within the Network.

Since it was first organized in 2016, the Contact Network has grown to 51 individuals, but more volunteers are needed. Make sure your neighborhood is covered and represented. Contact Wyatt Pless at 215-3456 or wpless@knoxvilletn.gov.

10. Thinking Spring Cleanup? Schedule a Trash Container Soon

If your neighborhood organization is thinking about scheduling a cleanup event this year, and you need a large trash container provided by the city, then now is the time to reserve your container.

The Public Service Department (PSD) offers trash containers free of charge to neighborhood groups for neighborhood-wide cleanup projects, but there are a limited number of containers and crews to handle them, so it is a very good idea to schedule your container as soon as you nail the dates for your cleanup event.

PSD offers two types of drop-off containers --- trailers and courtesy boxes. A trailer is familiar to anyone who has seen a city crew picking up brush. It is on wheels, is very large and has high sides, meaning it takes some muscle to pitch in heavy items. It is most appropriate for large-scale cleanup projects. A courtesy box is about one-third the size of a trailer, is easier to fill because the sides are not as high, and is more appropriate for neighborhood cleanups.

Call 311 to schedule a container on a first-come, first-served basis. Try to do this at least 6-8 weeks in advance of your cleanup event. Weekends (drop off Friday, pick up Monday) are in greater demand; mid-week slots are easier to schedule.

To insure proper location, a neighborhood representative should be prepared to give the 311 operator a daytime phone number for follow-up questions.

Anyone requesting a container must also provide a location where it is to be dropped. Make sure the spot is relatively level and is large enough for the container and the cab dropping it off. If the drop-off spot is not paved, it should have enough gravel so that the container does not get stuck in mud.

You may wish to check with nearby neighbors to make sure the location is acceptable to them. Also, if vehicles are blocking the designated spot, the city crew will not leave the container.

This program is available for residential and neighborhood use only --- not contractors, businesses and landlords. Also, please do NOT use containers for dirt, concrete, tires, construction debris, gas, paint and chemicals. Violators may be cited and may be prohibited from scheduling another container.

11. South Knoxville Street to Close for 90 Days

A section of West Blount Avenue west of Chapman Highway will be closed for 90 days beginning Monday, Feb. 6, while a contractor installs sewer main connections and storm drains.

The utility work is being performed by Charles Blalock & Sons Inc. as part of the construction of two South Waterfront residential developments – the \$60 million Riverwalk at the Bridges apartments at the former Baptist Hospital site and the \$35

million Riverfront Station student apartment complex, just west of the Henley Bridge. Electrical work by KUB is also anticipated during this street closure.

During the installation, West Blount Avenue will be closed between Chapman Highway and the railroad overpass near St. Paul Street. Motorists will be rerouted around the work site, accessing Blount Avenue from Martin Mill Pike or Maryville Pike.

Pedestrians should anticipate some sidewalk closures along sections of Chapman Highway and Blount Avenue within the project area, but signs will be in place to notify pedestrians of alternative paths.

For details about traffic flow in the area during the installation, visit <http://bit.ly/2k7VEsE>.

The Riverwalk at the Bridges development will include 300 residential units and public amenities that include a 1,100-foot public riverwalk, a center plaza between the east and west residences, a pocket park, and a 37,500-square-foot public plaza at the Henley Bridge.

The Riverfront Station student housing development will be a five- to six-story apartment complex that will be home to more than 400 students. Its riverwalk will connect to the new residences on the former hospital site and eventually will tie in to the existing Cityview riverwalk.

Riverwalk at the Bridges is tentatively scheduled to open its first units in late 2017, while Riverfront Station is scheduled to open in the fall of 2018.

12. MPC Schedules Public Meetings for One Year Plan Update

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) has scheduled three meetings to gather public input for its annual update of the One Year Plan, a comprehensive development plan that covers the entire city and sets parameters for zoning decisions.

At these meetings, MPC staff will be present to discuss amendments occurring in the previous year, proposed amendments for newly annexed property, and proposed staff amendments for 2017. To see the 2016 One Year Plan and other details, visit [this MPC page](#).

Here are meeting details. All meetings begin at 6 p.m. Meetings are specific to the MPC planning sectors. Contact MPC at 215-2500 if you are not sure which meeting to attend.

*** Thursday, Feb. 9 – South Sector – Flenniken Landing, 115 Flenniken Avenue

*** Thursday, Feb. 16 – North, Central and East Sectors – New Harvest Community Building, 4775 New Harvest Lane

*** Monday, Feb. 27 --- West and Northwest Sectors – Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 7234 Middlebrook Pike

13. Arts & Fine Crafts Center to Showcase Art

The Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center, 1127B North Broadway, is holding an opening reception from 5-8 p.m. coming Friday, Feb. 3, to showcase the pottery, wood and fiber artwork of River Rock Studios.

This is an opportunity to visit the Center, a program of the City's Parks & Recreation Department, and learn about the wide variety of youth and adult classes that it offers. [Learn more about the Center](#) and see [the latest newsletter](#).

14. 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 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.*