



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 6 – Tuesday, February 07, 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. Water Quality Forum Offers Grants

For the first time, [Water Quality Forum](#), a consortium of local public and private groups working together to protect local waterways, is offering neighborhood groups a chance to apply for its Environmental Stewardship Grants Program.

But you have to act fast. Proposals are due Feb. 24.

The program provides modest funds (up to \$1,500) for the application of stormwater best management practices. These are "green infrastructure" projects that increase rain water infiltration and reduce runoff. Ideas can range from tree plantings to rain gardens.

Learn more and download the application [on this web page](#).

2. Wiffle Ball Challenge Sparks Interest from Neighborhoods

Do you think you can beat Forest Heights, Island Home, or Norwood? What about Timbercrest, Burlington, Adair Gardens, or Lindbergh Forest? Bring it on!

These seven neighborhoods have already accepted Jennifer Reynolds' challenge to a first-ever, city-wide Neighborhood Wiffle Ball Tournament, and others have expressed interest.

The City of Knoxville's Parks & Recreation Department will host the tournament, which will be held on Saturday, June 10.

Interested neighborhoods should form teams of at least eight people --- but 12 are recommended. If you have enough players, you may have two teams from a single neighborhood. If you don't have enough, your players can join an independent team.

Teams are welcome to print jerseys or simply wear the same color shirt. Team colors will be assigned by Jennifer on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no cost to participate.

If you have never heard of [wiffle ball](#), or played it, 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.

To learn more or register, email Jennifer at Jennifer.zubko@gmail.com. Or call or text her at 865-776-5234. Please include the name, email, and phone number of a contact person for your team. Also include first, second, and third choice of team jersey color.

Jennifer is a founding member of the Timbercrest Neighborhood Association and a recent addition to the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

3. RiverHill Elects Officers, Board Members

RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association has elected officers and board members for 2017, with Kaye Bultemeier once again serving as president.

Other officers are Dana Dalton, vice president; Helen Bachrach, secretary; Noel Kuck, treasurer; and Pia Serspinski, communications. The group also formed two new committees (events and aesthetics), and Helen Bachrach agreed to be chairperson of plantings and landscaping.

The group meets at 4:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month but locations vary. For more, contact Kaye Bultemeier at kayebultemeier@gmail.com or 504-940-8952.

4. Registration Opens for The Neighborhood Conference

Registration is now open for **The Neighborhood Conference** on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Plan on attending and bringing your neighbors!

Start at www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods and click through to the conference gateway page. From there, you can locate the [Workshop Descriptions](#) which you may wish to read before landing on the [Eventbrite registration page](#).

Anyone without access to the Internet may call Inas Al Sarmad at 215-2113 to receive a hard copy of the program and the registration form in the mail.

Everyone planning to attend --- residents, speakers, exhibitors, volunteers, public officials, and sponsors --- should register so that we can generate name tags and an accurate count for breakfast and lunch.

Because of the number of workshops (22) and information booths (80), neighborhood groups are encouraged to bring as many of their members as possible to absorb as much information as possible and take advantage of everything the conference has to offer.

This large biennial event --- 700 attended in 2015 --- is designed specifically for neighborhood organizations. This is a chance for you to meet residents of other neighborhoods, compare notes, and learn from one another. Even if you are not a member of a neighborhood group, you will still find plenty to do, much to learn, and many interesting people to meet.

There is no charge to participate. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for a free continental breakfast sponsored by [Home Federal Bank](#). An opening general session will feature welcoming messages from Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett. Other features include:

*** The free lunch is sponsored by [Waste Connections](#) and [Hatcher-Hill Properties](#).

*** Twenty workshops address crime prevention, HOA legal issues, blight, neighborhood revitalization, animal control, ways to save on your KUB bill, how to help neighbors in need, neighborhood events and projects, and much more!

*** Two additional workshops are designed especially for youth interested in learning how to work with city government to get things done in their neighborhoods.

*** Over 80 information booths from a variety of governmental agencies and nonprofit organization will be on hand. Some booth spaces are left. See article below.

*** Take this opportunity to meet members of City Council as well as departmental staff members in both city and county governments.

*** A “Candidates Corner” will be set up on the Cumberland Concourse to give candidates for Knoxville City Council a designated place to meet voters and hand out campaign literature.

*** Free parking will be available at the UT Garage on Eleventh Street, the Locust Street Garage across from the YMCA, and the surface parking lot directly across Henley Street from the Convention Center.

5. Program Committee Helped Set the Workshop Agenda

In an event as large as The Neighborhood Conference, there will always be many hands involved in making the event happen.

With conference registration going live today, along with details about the workshops designed for neighborhood groups, it is appropriate to single out the individuals who helped develop the ideas and topics on which the workshops are based.

We relied heavily on a Program Committee composed of neighborhood leaders to identify the topics covered in this year’s workshops.

The Office of Neighborhoods wishes to issue a sincere “thank you” to Program Committee members Carly Baskette, Johnnie Bridges, Arturo Cano, Ronnie Collins, Molly Conaway, Courtney Durrett, Emma Ellis-Cosigua, Danny Gray, Travetta Johnson, Don Loy, Gerry Moll, Fran Nichols, Jennifer Reynolds, and Jennifer Zialcita-Simon.

This group met several times in 2016 to brainstorm and hammer out the details that resulted in workshops covering walkability, homelessness, neighborhood communications, social services, diversity among neighbors, creative placemaking and much, much more. See the [Workshop Descriptions](#) to appreciate the full range of this work.

6. Eason Architecture Joins Conference Sponsors

The **Neighborhood Conference** has attracted its 14th sponsor.

[Elizabeth Eason Architecture](#) --- which offers a full range of architectural services --- has become a silver sponsor.

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

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

The other silver sponsors are [Knoxville Area Association of Realtors](#) and [Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers](#).

Bronze sponsors are [Broadway Carpets](#), [Dover Development](#), [First Tennessee Bank](#), [Realty Executives Associates](#), [TIS Insurance Services](#), and [UT Federal Credit Union](#).

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.

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

7. Last Call for Information Booth Applications

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.

8. Advisory Council to Hear Public Service Ideas

The February meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) will focus on upcoming changes and improvements to services offered by the Public Service Department (PSD).

PSD Director Chad Weth and Solid Waste Manager Rachel Butzler will discuss and take input on these new developments.

The NAC meets at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow --- Wednesday, Feb. 8 --- at the Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street. NAC meetings are open to the public.

The NAC is appointed by the Mayor to provide advice and feedback to the City on neighborhood-related issues. Learn more [here](#) or contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

9. City Offers Tips on Hassle-Free Garbage Pickup

The City's Public Service Department is asking that city residents take a few steps to make sure garbage is picked up each week with as few problems as possible.

Trash should be out by 7:00 a.m. on your pick-up day. City ordinance allows you to place the garbage cart at the curb the night before your pickup day if 7 a.m. is too early. Put garbage in the garbage cart and place it in the usual pick-up location with the wheels closest to the house.

Place the cart away from vehicles, utility poles or other items that might restrict the robotic arms from picking up the cart. Please do not allow the cart to block traffic, mail service, and sidewalks. Try to be aware of any other safety issues when you put your cart out.

Only contents of the cart will be picked up; lids must be closed with NO additional bags placed on top.

The City's bulky waste policy has not changed. See the [website](#) for details. Bulky waste is NOT additional bags of garbage that the cart was too full to hold.

If you have large volumes of garbage, the City is expanding its curbside recycling program to help manage waste volume. Recyclable materials can be diverted away from the landfill and reused, saving taxpayer money in disposal fees and extending the life of the landfill. Call 311 to sign up or go on line to register for a [Recycle Cart](#).

Additional garbage carts are available from Waste Connections for a monthly fee. Call them at 522-8161 ext. 2 for more information.

10. League Sponsors News Media Forum

Have you ever wondered how the news media chooses what stories to air or print?

If so, you now have a chance to get an answer to this and related news media questions, thanks to the League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County (LWVKKC)

Members of the League and the general public are invited to a "What's Fit to Print" forum from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, in the community room at Lawson McGhee Library, located downtown at 500 W. Church Ave.

The panelists are Brandon Hollingsworth, local host of WUOT's All Things Considered; Jack McElroy, editor of the Knoxville News Sentinel; and Jay Quaintance, assistant news director at WATE-TV.

The League, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

11. TPO Seeks Your Input

If you walk, ride a bike, drive a car, or take a bus, you are impacted by transportation planning.

The transportation system should reflect the thoughts and meet the needs of everyone who uses it. To make sure that happens, the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) wants you to be involved, learn how transportation works, and voice your opinion.

Help them learn what is important to you by taking this short [online survey](#). Then review the draft [prioritized project list](#) (via an interactive map). If you have a little more time, check out the [regional transportation plan](#). You can offer comments on specific projects, or on the plan itself.

For more, contact Kelley Segars at kelley.segars@knoxtrans.org or 215- 3815.

12. BZA Decisions Can Impact Your Neighborhood

Six properties are on the agenda for next week's meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Established by city ordinance, BZA hears appeals of denials of building permits by the city's Building Inspections Department. The board, consisting of five citizens appointed by the Mayor, meets at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

BZA meets next Thursday, Feb. 16. Addresses on the agenda include 3515 N. Broadway, 902 N. Central Street, 6645 Clinton Hwy, 2120 Cumberland Avenue, 2341 Jefferson Avenue, and 3428 Keith Avenue.

Keep up with how the BZA might impact your neighborhood. Watch for the black and white signs indicating that there is a pending decision on a particular piece of property. Most signs are for Metropolitan Planning Commission issues --- which are also important --- but signs with the word "variance" are BZA items.

The BZA agenda is posted on the city website. Browse to www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards and click on Board of Zoning Appeals. The agenda is posted no later than the Monday prior to the BZA meeting each month.

A neighborhood group that keeps track of BZA will call the Plans Review & Inspections Department at 215-3669 to request and study the paperwork on a particular appeal, decide whether to take a position on the appeal, and then attend the BZA meeting to voice the group's support or objections. A group can also request a postponement to allow time to meet with the applicant.

Decisions of the BZA can be appealed within 15 days of the BZA decision to Knoxville City Council. Appeals of a City Council decision are made to Chancery Court within 60

days of a City Council decision related to BZA.

13. 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 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.*