



**Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 8 – Tuesday, February 21, 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. Youth Sought for Blues Class, Conference Performance**

Knoxville Jazz and Blues Singer Kelle Jolly is looking for middle and high school age students who would like to learn, from scratch, how to write a blues song and perform on stage at the March 11 Neighborhood Conference.

Jolly is calling on middle and high school students across the city to participate in a pre-conference songwriting workshop where they will learn some history of the blues and how blues tunes and lyrics are structured. She will help them compose and sing their own blues songs. The youth, with Jolly backing them up, will perform at the annual Awards & Networking Luncheon at the conference.

The workshop will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the City of Knoxville’s [Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center](#), 1127 North Broadway. The fee is \$10 to participate. To sign up, call the Center at 523-1401.

Jolly, the host of [Jazz Jam on WUOT](#) 91.9 FM on Friday evenings, is also the founder of the [Women in Jazz Jam Festival](#), which will occur the same weekend as the conference.

## **2. Registration Continues**

Two weeks down --- two to go.

Over 280 people have now registered to attend **The Neighborhood Conference** on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Knoxville Convention Center. Early registration ends at noon Tuesday, March 7. You can register on site on March 11, but you will not be guaranteed the free continental breakfast, free lunch, or printed name tag.

To register, start at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods](http://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](#).

## **3. Something for Everyone at Neighborhood Conference**

Trying to decide whether to spend part of Saturday, March 11, at The Neighborhood Conference in Knoxville?

Sure, you're thinking, there is no charge to participate and enjoy a free continental breakfast, a fun-packed photo booth, a [neighborhood tee shirt contest](#), and [door prizes](#).

But what else?

Well, there IS the free luncheon, where [Knoxville Jazz and Blues Singer Kelle Jolly](#) will be on stage with middle and high school students singing blues songs. And eight individuals will be honored for their service to their communities, with Mayor Madeline Rogero presenting one of them with the [Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award](#).

But what else?

Granted, there will be [over 80 information booths](#) provided by city and county departments, nonprofit organizations, and [conference sponsors](#).

But what else?

True, you can meet elected leaders, local government officials, and some of the candidates running in City Council races this year.

But what else?

And, yes, you will be meeting residents and leaders from other neighborhoods, and you will be inspired by others who also care about the quality of life in THEIR neighborhoods.

But what else?

Here's what else: These 22 workshops brimming with speakers and information for Knoxville residents and neighborhood organizations:

\*\* Youth Workshop: How Local Government Works

- \*\* Neighborhood Umbrella Groups
- \*\* How to Save on Your Utility Bill
- \*\* Creative Placemaking
- \*\* Engaging Neighbors to Build Your Neighborhood Organization
- \*\* Youth Recreation Opportunities for your Community
- \*\* Legal Issues for Homeowner Associations
- \*\* Pets, Wildlife & Nuisance Animals
- \*\* How to Run for Knoxville City Council
- \*\* Understanding the City Budget
- \*\* Zoning and Why You Should Care
- \*\* Youth Workshop: Getting Things Done in Your Community
- \*\* Communication Strategies for Your Neighborhood
- \*\* When a Neighbor Needs Help
- \*\* Fight the Blight
- \*\* Diversity Matters: Finding Common Ground
- \*\* How to Get Involved in Your Local Schools
- \*\* Homelessness in Knoxville
- \*\* Fighting Crime in Your Neighborhood
- \*\* Neighborhood Walkability
- \*\* Funding Resources for Neighborhood Groups
- \*\* Creative Event Making

See the [Workshop Descriptions](#) for the details and speakers. [Register here](#) or call Inas Al-Sarmad at 215-2113 to receive a hard copy of the workshop descriptions and the registration form. See you at the conference!

#### **4. Sponsors Make This Possible**

The City's general funds, which are provided largely by taxpayers, underwrite about half of the cost of the Neighborhood Conference, but this citywide gathering simply would not be possible without our corporate sponsors.

That's why we like to thank them --- a lot.

The largest donors are Luncheon Sponsors [Hatcher-Hill Properties](#) and [Waste Connections of Tennessee](#) and Breakfast Sponsor [Home Federal Bank](#), followed by Gold Sponsors [Cannon & Cannon Inc.](#) and [Coldwell Banker Wallace and Wallace Realtors](#), and then Silver Sponsors [Elizabeth Eason Architecture](#), [Knoxville Area Association of Realtors](#) and [Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers](#).

[See the six bronze sponsors](#). Please visit these sponsors' web pages to learn more about their services. And please thank them for their support when you get a chance.

#### **5. Affordable Care Act: Repeal, Replace or Repair?**

The City of Knoxville is one of seven partners sponsoring a town hall on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) starting at 6 p.m. this coming Thursday evening, Feb. 23, at Whittle Springs Middle School, 2700 White Oak Lane.

A panel of speakers will air the issues surrounding the ACA and how current and proposed policies are impacting and may impact Tennesseans. The League of Women Voters will moderate.

“This is not a partisan issue or a partisan meeting, nor is it a rally or protest,” Mayor Madeline Rogero said in inviting everyone to attend and participate. “It is a chance for the public to express their concerns and hear from experts about the future of affordable health care.”

Panelists are Jerry Askew, Vice President of External Relations, Tennova Healthcare; Dr. Carole Myers, Associate Professor of Public Health, University of Tennessee College of Nursing; Matthew C. Harris, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Haslam College of Business, University of Tennessee; Richard Henighan, Nurse Practitioner and advocate for Tennessee Health Care Coalition; and Michael Holtz, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

In addition to the City, the other sponsors are the [League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County](#), the [Tennessee Health Care Campaign](#), the [American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network](#), the [Tennessee Disability Coalition](#), the [Tennessee Justice Center](#), and the [National Association of Social Workers](#).

## **6. Theatre Knoxville Tackles Neighborhoods and Race**

“Clybourne Park” --- a satirical and hard-charging play about the politics of race and gentrification in one Chicago neighborhood --- is now showing at Theatre Knoxville Downtown.

The performance this coming Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26, will be followed by a [“talkback” discussion](#) about the play among audience members, the cast, and director Ed White. The play begins at 3 p.m. and lasts two hours and 15 minutes; the discussion begins at 5:30 p.m.

The play “doesn't answer the difficult questions, but it sure raises them, and makes people think and talk about them,” White observes.

Written by Playwright Bruce Norris, the play won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2012 Tony Award for Best Play. [See this web page](#) to learn more about the play and to order tickets. Note that the play does include adult language.

Among the cast members is Greg Congleton, a past president of Island Home Park Neighborhood Association.

## **7. State Bill Would Prevent City Oversight of Short-Term Rentals**

Tennessee State Representative Cameron Sexton, R-Crossville, has introduced legislation that would prevent the City of Knoxville and other cities and counties from using their zoning powers to regulate short term rentals of less than 30 days.

In effect, Rep. Sexton’s [House Bill 1020](#) would allow short-term rentals such as those brokered by Airbnb and similar online services in any residential neighborhood without

regard to ownership or residency. Additionally, [Senate Bill 0372](#), introduced by Tennessee State Senator Doug Overbey, R-District 2, also proposes to regulate short term rentals, but with more preservation of local authority.

These bills were introduced long after the City of Knoxville began holding public meetings and exploring options for regulating short-term rentals. After reviewing public comments and digging into the lessons learned in other cities, the City Administration has concluded that short term rentals:

- Are occurring in increasing numbers across the City, are illegal in many districts under current zoning codes, and are avoiding the motel-hotel tax that established businesses have to pay.
- Could shrink the supply of affordable housing, the lack of which is already a growing problem in Knoxville.
- Could negatively impact the character and sense of community in residential neighborhoods if proper protections are not included.
- Represent an emerging economy, make Knoxville a more welcoming place to visitors, and should be regulated wisely rather than prohibited altogether.
- May provide an important source of income for retirees and other homeowners who need to supplement their incomes.

The City is preparing a proposed change in its local zoning laws that would balance these competing concerns. This proposed ordinance will be heard first at the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and then at City Council, which has final legislative authority on the zoning amendment.

Before the proposed ordinance is introduced to MPC, a public meeting on the issue is planned for late March 2017. Watch this newsletter and the City's website for details on date and location.

As noted in [this Knoxville News Sentinel article](#), the City of Knoxville takes the position that the regulation of short term rentals is best left to local government, which can be more responsive to citizen concerns.

## **8. Better Building Board to Consider Three Blighted Properties**

Three properties --- 743 South Chestnut Street, 522 Fern Street, and 542 Tipton Avenue --- are on the agenda for this week's Better Building Board (BBB) meeting at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Staff from the City's Community Development Department will ask the BBB to "determine" that the properties are blighted. Neighbors affected by these properties may wish to be present to testify on their impact on the neighborhood.

Under the city's Chronic Problem Properties ordinance, a property first determined and then later certified by the BBB to be blighted is eligible for possible acquisition by the City, using its eminent domain powers, if the owner fails to take corrective action.

Blighted properties acquired by the city are stabilized and then listed for sale through the Community Development Department's [Homemaker Program](#).

For a full copy of the BBB agenda, with details and owner information on each property, [visit this page](#) and click on current BBB agenda.

## **9. Testify on Blighted Properties at Friday Meeting**

Eleven properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24.

The Public Officer --- Public Works Director David Brace --- will hear testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. Testimony can also be made by the property owners, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders, such as lien holders.

The Public Officer then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Failure by the owner to cure the problem may result in the boarding or demolition of a structure, or the cleanup of a dirty or overgrown lot, with costs billed to the owner. A property owner may appeal the Public Officer's decision to the Better Building Board and, ultimately, to Chancery Court.

The properties to be heard for repair/demolition orders are: 805 Beaman Lake Road, 307 South Elmwood Street, 602 Fern Street, 2908 Johnston Street, 2515 Linden Avenue, 3217 Linden Avenue, 4848 Scheel Road, 3863 Speedway Circle, and 1616 Young Avenue including accessory structure.

Also, there will be a hearing for confirmation of emergency repair orders issued by codes officials on 3949 Alma Avenue and 125 Keeble Avenue (including accessory structure).

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, you or a representative of your organization may wish to attend the meeting to submit testimony about the impact of the property on the neighborhood. The full February 24 agenda, with details on each property, can be found [here](#).

## **10. All Garbage Must be INSIDE the Cart**

The City of Knoxville's new garbage collection system requires that each household fit all their garbage into the city-issued garbage cart, with the lid completely closed.

If you are having a hard time keeping your garbage to one 95-gallon cart every week, you do have options!

\*\* Enroll in the City's curbside recycling program. This not only reduces the waste you generate but also diverts recyclable materials away from the landfill, reducing the need for more landfill space. Call 311 to sign up for recycling.

\*\* Take recyclables to one of the City's [drop-off centers](#). Please remember that glass can no longer be included in curbside recycling, but glass CAN be separated by color and taken to a drop-off center.

\*\* Rent an additional cart from the City's waste hauling contractor, Waste Connections, for a monthly fee. Call 865-522-8161, ext. 2, to learn more.

\*\* Use the [Knox County Convenience Centers](#) to dispose of excess household waste.

\*\* Use the City's [Solid Waste Management Facility](#) at 1033 Elm Street off the Baxter Avenue exit of I-275. City residents can dump free of charge from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Note that computers and household hazardous wastes are also accepted here, separate from the regular dump site.

For more information, [visit this web page](#) or call 311.

## **11. Question: Where to Discuss “Retrofitting Suburbia”?**

The [Knox County Health Department](#) has announced that the next event in its Walkability Speaker Series will be held in March and will focus on “retrofitting suburbia.”

In response to previous surveys, the Department needs to decide where to hold the next event. They ask that interested persons take [this one-question survey](#) to help them choose the best location for the next event.

For more information, or to voice concerns or comments, contact Kasey Sumeriski at 215-5174 or [kasey.sumeriski@knoxcounty.org](mailto:kasey.sumeriski@knoxcounty.org).

## **12. 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.*