

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 20 – Tuesday, May 23, 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. City Seeks Proposals for Neighborhood Small Grants

The Office of Neighborhoods is now ready to start the process for the 2018 Cycle under the [Neighborhood Small Grants Program](#) (NSGP).

Neighborhood groups are urged to review the **Grant Guidelines** and the **Application Form**, and begin discussing possible neighborhood projects that might qualify for funding under the program.

If your city neighborhood organization wishes to apply for a Neighborhood Small Grant this year, a representative must attend **ONE** of the two mandatory pre-application workshops:

*** Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue, **OR**

*** Thursday, June 15, from 6-8 p.m. at the Knoxville Station, 301 E Church Avenue.

In these meetings, staff from the Office of Neighborhoods will explain the guidelines, application, and time line, and also respond to questions. Even if you are not sure if your neighborhood will apply for a grant, it is best to attend one of the meetings, thereby preserving your opportunity to apply. The applications are due on or before 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 17, for projects beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

To register, contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382 for either of these two workshops. Also contact Debbie if you need a hard copy of the Guidelines and Application mailed to you.

Neighborhood groups that have never applied for a grant in the past are especially urged to consider an application and to contact Debbie to discuss project ideas and learn more about how the program works.

The city is allocating up to \$30,000 for grants this year. Grant funds can be used for projects and programs developed by resident-led, resident-controlled neighborhood associations, tenant associations, homeowners associations, and neighborhood watch groups that serve neighborhoods inside city limits. Start-up neighborhood groups may also apply.

2. Honor Fountain City Day set for Memorial Day

The 42nd Annual Honor Fountain City Day will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Memorial Day --- Monday, May 29 --- in the Historic Fountain City Park. This year's theme is "Let's Walk."

The event, sponsored by **Fountain City Town Hall (FCTH)**, honors our veterans and celebrates the heritage of Fountain City. It provides an opportunity for residents to enjoy a day in the park while learning what makes their community so special. Local historian Dr. Jim Tumblin will host a Heritage Table with historic photographs of Fountain City. Copies of his book "Fountain City: People Who Made a Difference" will be available for sale.

Entertainment at the Park gazebo will feature Nostalgia, Brandywine, and River's Drift, concluding with a concert by Tennessee Wind Symphony. Upstate Birds of Prey and the University of Tennessee's Entomology Department's "Bug Zoo" will each have exhibits. Local artists will offer their work. Free children's activities include games and face painting. Refreshments include barbecue, hot dogs, desserts and soft drinks.

Keynote speaker and Fountain City resident Gerald Green, Executive Director of Knoxville's Metropolitan Planning Commission, will speak about the importance of more walkable communities. "He will have citizens putting on their walking shoes," noted Nan Scott, chair of FCTH. "Healthier days are ahead for all of us!"

FCTH Board member Ken Cloninger will invite "All Aboard" to the Town Hall Train. Children and parents will enjoy a ride through the park in the train that carries Fountain City history along with its passengers.

Honor Fountain City Day concludes with an awards program recognizing people who have made a positive difference in the community. Former Mayor and Sixth District City Council Member Daniel Brown will receive the "Friend of Fountain City" award. David Massey, who heads the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods, will receive the Chairman's Award. Receiving the "Commercial Business Restoration Award" is Amigo's Mexican Grill. The Residential Restoration Award will recognize the Mashburn home on Gibbs Drive.

The Fountain City Man and Woman of the year will also be announced.

Finally, WBIR's John Becker will lead a Memorial Day Tribute to Fountain City Veterans. City Councilman and Vietnam veteran Finbarr Saunders will give the memorial

message. Vocalist Lynn Bennett will provide inspirational patriotic selections. “Taps” will end the observance.

3. Garbage and Recycling on Schedule on Memorial Day

City of Knoxville offices will be closed Monday, May 29, for the Memorial Day Holiday, but the city’s garbage contractor, Waste Connections, will run its regular residential garbage and recycling routes every day next week.

Downtown trash and recycling will run on its regular schedule throughout the Memorial Day weekend. The City’s recycling centers will be open; the Goodwill attendant will not be available for household goods donations on May 29, and the City’s Solid Waste Management Facility, 1033 Elm Street, will be closed on Saturday, May 27, and Monday, May 29.

4. City Council Schedules Workshop on Short-Term Rentals

Knoxville City Council has decided to hold a workshop on the proposed ordinance governing short-term rentals.

The workshop will delay any vote on the ordinance until after the workshop is held. The Metropolitan Planning Commission earlier this month voted to pass the ordinance along to Council without recommendation.

The workshop will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 29, in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building. The workshop will include a presentation by city staff, and time will be set aside for public comment.

5. MPC to Make Changes to Public Notice Signs

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) is making changes to their public notice signs and the procedures concerning them.

Starting this summer, MPC will provide temporary signs to applicants to post themselves, and will require that applicants sign an agreement that outlines the applicant’s responsibilities in posting the sign(s). All new signs will be color coded by case type to help the public identify the nature of the proposal or application.

Current signs are black and white and list the nature of the application, and the date, time, and location of the upcoming public hearing. The new signs will have a case type and color to indicate the nature of the application, a phone number, website, and file number. Anyone interested can then call the listed phone number or visit MPC’s website and use the file number to find more information.

The new sign procedures will still cover the same items: rezonings, plan amendments, concept plans, uses on review, alley or street closures, street or subdivision name changes, variances, and City BZA.

Currently, four to five days per month are spent by an MPC staff person preparing, placing and retrieving the signs on behalf of applicants for those applications requiring a public meeting. The new procedure will provide a more efficient use of staff time.

Legal requirements state that public notices must be published in the appropriate newspaper, but do not require signs to be posted. MPC until now has posted the signs -- and now will provide the signs to applicants --- as a courtesy notification as outlined by the agency's administrative rules.

At its last monthly meeting on May 11, MPC voted to change its administrative rules regarding the signs. MPC also altered the rules for debate and public input at MPC meetings; now the rules follow the way MPC has conducted its meetings over the last several years. For more information on both items, see this [May 11 agenda document](#).

6. May Blight Meetings Canceled

The Better Building Board (BBB) and the Public Officer Hearing (POH) have been canceled for this month.

The BBB is usually held on the last Thursday of each month, January-October, and on the first Thursday of December. The BBB hears appeals of orders made by the Public Officer, considers requests by the City under the "Demolition by Neglect" ordinance, and takes action on City requests under the Chronic Problem Properties ordinance.

The POH is usually held each month on Friday after the BBB. The Public Officer holds hearings to consider whether to order owners of unfit properties to make repairs or demolish the structures.

For more, visit [here](#) or contact Cheri Hollifield chollifield@knoxvilletn.gov.

7. Public Meeting to Discuss Two City Properties Slated for Cleanup

Two brownfield sites near downtown Knoxville will be cleaned up soon to make way for redevelopment, and a public meeting has been scheduled.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded \$350,000 in brownfield cleanup grant funds that will be used to remediate contamination at the McClung Warehouses site on Jackson Avenue and the Sanitary Laundry site on North Broadway.

Come learn more about the process at a kickoff meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 1, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 544 North Broadway.

Both sites have unique redevelopment histories and are unusual in that they are City-owned. The City, motivated by blight-abatement and public safety concerns, purchased the McClung Warehouses portion of the Jackson Avenue site in 2013 from a bankruptcy trustee. The warehouses, dating back to the 1890s, were destroyed by fires in 2007 and 2014. The City acquired the abandoned dry-cleaning site on Broadway in 2014 in a tax foreclosure. The laundry had been a leading employer in the 1920s and 1930s.

The EPA is funding \$200,000 for the 15,000-square-foot former dry-cleaning site in the heart of the Downtown North Redevelopment District and \$150,000 for the five-acre former industrial site on Jackson Avenue.

The City will be contributing a 20 percent match – a combined \$70,000. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is partnering with the City and EPA on the cleanups. The City took bids and selected S&ME, Inc. to implement the cleanup grant.

Once the sites are rehabilitated, the City intends to eventually seek requests for proposals (RFPs) for both properties from private redevelopers. A mix of uses is envisioned for both properties. See the [Redevelopment](#) website for more information.

8. Knox Heritage's Trent to Address Historic Preservation

Bring your lunch to the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street, this Wednesday, May 24, noon to 1 p.m., and join in a discussion about historic preservation.

Kim Trent, director of Knox Heritage, will discuss the book "*Past and Future City: How Historic Preservation is Reviving America's Communities*" by Stephanie Meek and Kevin C. Murphy.

The event is part of the Knox County Public Library's [Books Sandwich In](#) series. See the website or call Emily Ellis at 215-8723 for more information.

9. 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.