



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 21 – Tuesday, May 30, 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. Remembering Margaret Gaiter

Longtime community activist and neighborhood advocate Margaret Gaiter died on May 12 at the age of 91.

She was not just the secretary of the Dandridge Avenue Neighborhood Watch: She WAS the Dandridge Avenue Neighborhood Watch, according to past president Lawrence Washington. “Everyone looked to her for advice.”

She was a prime mover behind the organization’s annual National Night Out event, one of the largest such events in the city, drawing candidates and politicians as well as residents and police. She was also the organization’s primary liaison with the city and a frequent caller to both the Office of Neighborhoods and the Mayor’s Office, expressing concerns about problems and issues that she had run across.

In her remarks at the May 23 City Council meeting, Mayor Madeline Rogero, recognized Mrs. Gaiter as a champion of equality who touched many lives during decades of public and community service.

“Throughout her long life, she showed that what matters is not only what you do, but how you do it,” Mayor Rogero continued. “She and her husband, Felix, exhibited grace and determination, both personally and professionally, and often in the face of doubt and adversity. She cared passionately about her community and her city. She never gave an inch when it came to doing what she knew was right, but her persistence came from kindness and empathy, never rancor. We will all miss her very strong, steady voice.”

A 1947 graduate of Knoxville College, Mrs. Gaiter was a teacher, a relocation supervisor for the old Knoxville Housing Authority, the Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator of Knox County Schools, and founding member and president of Beck Cultural Center. And for over 30 years she was music director and organist for her church, Rogers Memorial Baptist. She leaves her son Felix, daughter Peggy, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

2. Cumberland Estates Residents to Meet, Greet Council Candidates

Cumberland Estates Neighborhood Watch will host the District 3 City Council candidates for a meet-and-greet event starting at 6 p.m. this coming Thursday, June 1, at Cumberland Estates Recreation Center on Silverhill Drive. All are welcome to attend.

3. Community Meeting to Discuss Proposal for Lonsdale

Mayor Madeline Rogero this week will lead a community discussion on a proposed \$8 million to \$10 million investment in youth-serving programs, recreation amenities and public infrastructure in Lonsdale.

The meeting will take place from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 1, at Lonsdale Elementary School, 1317 Louisiana Avenue.

Members of the Lonsdale community and other stakeholders are invited to this City-facilitated public discussion on the proposal by Emerald Youth Foundation (EYF) to build a multipurpose facility and sports center in Lonsdale.

The proposal includes two multipurpose synthetic turf fields for soccer, flag football and other sports. EYF is also ready to build a 30,000-plus-square-foot multipurpose facility featuring a learning center; a gymnasium with four basketball courts, locker rooms, concessions and a kitchen; a fitness area with a weight room, dance/aerobics room and cardio theater; an assembly room for public gatherings; and a performing arts area with practice rooms.

The proposed complex would be constructed on vacant City-owned land along Texas Avenue between Stonewall and Sherman streets, as well as a portion of Knox County-owned property next to Sam E. Hill School adjacent to Lonsdale Homes.

EYF officials will detail their proposal, and Mayor Madeline Rogero will moderate a community discussion and question-and-answer session.

The school will be ADA accessible for the June 1 public meeting, but anyone needing a specific disability accommodation should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Stephanie Cook, at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2034. For an English interpreter, contact the City Law Department at 865-215-2050.

4. Attend Neighborhood Grants Workshop This Saturday

The first of two mandatory workshops for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program will be held this coming Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the City of Knoxville's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue.

Any city neighborhood organization that wishes to apply for funding this year must attend this workshop OR a second workshop scheduled for the evening of June 15 at Transit Center Station.

Please register for one of the workshops by contacting Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

The Office of Neighborhoods, which administers the grants program, issued the 2018 [Application](#) and [Guidelines](#) last week. If possible, please read through these documents before you attend the workshop. Call Debbie if you need copies of these documents mailed to you.

Applications are due on or before 4:30 p.m. Monday, July 17, for projects beginning in 2018. See [this web page](#) for the schedule.

5. Save the Date: Neighborhood Wiffle Ball Tournament

Eight neighborhood organizations are all set to participate in Knoxville's first ever Neighborhood Wiffle Ball Tournament on Saturday, June 10, at Victor Ashe Park.

The neighborhood groups are Burlington Residents Association, Forest Heights Homeowners Association, Island Home Park Neighborhood Association, Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, Old North Knoxville, Timbercrest Neighborhood Association, Wesley Neighbors/West Hills Community Association, and Westwood Homeowners Association.

Play begins at 9 a.m. Eight teams are set to face off in a double elimination showdown. They will be playing on four fields, and each team will play at least twice. Thanks to the City's Parks and Recreation Department for providing the logistics.

It is too late to sign up any new teams, but everyone is welcome to come and support your sister neighborhoods and see who emerges as neighborhood wiffle ball champion. Spectators should bring lawn chairs and picnic blankets for more comfortable seating. A concession stand will also be available.

This tournament is the brain child of Jennifer Reynolds of Timbercrest. If you have an idea for tournaments or other events that bring together Knoxville's neighborhoods,

please contact the Office of Neighborhoods. We will assist in any way possible. Contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382.

6. Little Free Libraries Available for City Parks

The City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department will install a Little Free Library in two city parks if nearby neighborhood groups promise to keep the libraries stocked with books.

If your group is interested, please contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov by Friday, June 2. You will be notified by Wednesday, June 7, if your neighborhood has been selected. Parks & Rec will install the two libraries by the end of July.

The two libraries were donated by [Sleep Outfitters](#), a family-owned mattress supplier that will open four new stores in the Knoxville area on June 2, 3 and 4. At the grand opening for each store, local author Jennifer Hultz will read her book to children, and other family-friendly activities are planned.

[Little Free Library](#) is a nonprofit that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.

7. City Seeks Ideas for “Greening” City-Owned Lots

Do you know of a city-owned lot that could be transformed into a community garden or other green space in service to the community?

Would your organization be interested in learning how you might get involved in “greening” and maintaining this lot?

If the answer to both questions is yes, check out this announcement from the Office of Sustainability:

The City of Knoxville's [Office of Sustainability](#) recognizes the importance of—and need for—community gardens as a place where families can grow their own nutritious and affordable food. We also appreciate the value of well-maintained green spaces in our community.

As part of its [Urban Agriculture Initiative](#), the Sustainability Office last year worked with other departments and City Council to change Knoxville's zoning ordinance to allow both community and market gardens on privately held land.

More recently, the Office of Sustainability has been exploring whether and how to make it possible and feasible for community groups, neighborhood organizations and other nonprofits to utilize vacant City-owned land to create and maintain green spaces for community gardens and other uses.

The Sustainability Office wants to hear your ideas. With enough interest, we'll create a pilot project to test best practices. If your neighborhood organization or community

group has a vision for a community garden or other type of green space on a City-owned parcel in your neighborhood, let us know by filling out [this short questionnaire](#). This survey will close on June 30, 2017.

Questions may be directed to Brian Blackmon at bblackmon@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-3035.

8. Dragon Boat Race Offers Neighborhood Rate

This year's Dragon Boat Race --- a fundraising event for the Tennessee Clean Water Network ([TCWN](#)) --- will include a special rate for neighborhood associations in Knoxville and Knox County.

TCWN is offering a neighborhood rate of \$500 – or \$25 each for the 20 paddlers needed. Per person, that is cheaper than a 5K race and maybe even more fun. The price includes the use of a 41-foot-long, authentic Hong-Kong-style dragon boat, paddles, and life vests. Moreover, each team will get a professional steerer.

“Anyone can paddle,” TCWN says, “making it the ultimate team building sport, requiring synchronicity and finesse.” This year's race is set for Saturday, August 26, with activities launching from Volunteer Landing.

Recruit 20 of your neighbors, sign up, and challenge another neighborhood association to compete for glory on the Tennessee River.

There will be one 90-minute practice session the week before the race, and all teams will race twice on race day. The fastest four teams will advance to the finals. There will be off water prizes for best team, best dressed drummer, best team spirit, best decorated tent and more. There will be activities for children during the races.

Visit the [Dragon Boat web page](#) to learn more, to register, and to view videos of previous races. Or contact Angela at 865-522-7007 or angela@tcwn.org.

TCWN advocates statewide for clean water and healthy communities by fostering civic engagement, building partnerships, advocating for sustainable water policies, and, when necessary, filing suit against polluters to enforce state and federal clean water laws.

9. Keep Knoxville Beautiful Chooses East Knoxville

East Knoxville will be the focus of Keep Knoxville Beautiful's clean-up and beautification efforts over the 12-month period beginning in July.

[KKB](#) needs your input! Does your neighborhood or community group have a project already underway, know of a problem spot, and/or have a dream project and need help? Let KKB know so that their efforts can dovetail with the neighborhood's efforts.

Also, if you live, work or play in East Knoxville, please complete this [survey](#) and pass it along to friends and neighbors. Questions can be addressed to Patience at 521-5957

or info@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org. KBB recently concluded a year-long focus on South Knoxville.

10. Walkability Speaker Series: Atlanta Beltline

The [Atlanta Beltline Project](#) --- one of the largest and most comprehensive trail, park and transportation projects in the U.S. --- will be the topic for the next edition of the Walkability Speaker Series.

Rob Brawner, executive director of the Atlanta Beltline Partnership, will speak about the project on Tuesday, June 6, at Central United Methodist Church, 201 East Third Avenue. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the program begins at 6 p.m. Please [RSVP](#) for this event.

Sponsors are the [Knox County Health Department](#), Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), [Bike Walk Knoxville](#), [East Tennessee Quality Growth](#), and [Knoxville Area Association of Realtors](#).

11. East Knoxville Freedom School Seeks Young Students

East Knoxville Freedom School is seeking rising first through sixth graders for a six-week summer program designed to help children fall in love with reading, increase their self-esteem, and generate more positive attitudes toward learning.

The program also aims to reduce summer learning loss and to connect their families with resources in the community.

The school will operate from June 14 through July 26 at Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Academy. Freedom Schools is a program of the Children's Defense Fund ([CDF](#)) founded by Marian Wright Edelman.

[Freedom Schools](#) provide a unique opportunity for Scholars (the students) and Servant Leader Interns (college students who serve as the teachers) to learn, grow, celebrate their diversity, and participate in making positive social changes in their community.

The student leader interns engage small groups of ten scholars each in a culturally responsive reading curriculum where they work with books containing culturally relevant images and content to hone their comprehension and critical thinking skills. They participate in a variety of stimulating activities throughout the day to set a positive tone, build cohesiveness, and broaden their experiences and skill sets. Meals and healthy snacks are provided as well.

The goal of Freedom Schools® is to ensure that every child has a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start with the help of caring adults, families, and communities. All children are encouraged to find their voices as they interact with their own history through literacy and the development of 21st century skills.

To enroll, volunteer, and/or provide financial support, contact Denise Dean, Project Director of East Knoxville Freedom School, at EKnoxFreedomSchool@gmail.com or 865-333-0645.

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 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.*