



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 29 – Tuesday, August 8, 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. OLPNA to Hold Seventh Annual Block Party

Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association (OLPNA) will host its [7th Annual Block Party](#) this Saturday, Aug. 12, from 5-7 p.m., at the Christenberry Ballfields, 931 Oglewood Drive.

The event includes games, food, a bounce house, and music, all at no charge to residents. This year, there will also be an opportunity for neighborhood residents to give feedback on a proposed historic walking trail in the neighborhood. For more, contact Molly Conaway at 309-830-5853 or molly.conaway@gmail.com.

2. Traffic Calming Program to Launch in September

The City of Knoxville will launch its new **Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP)** in September, and a public meeting has been scheduled to go over the details.

The public meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, at the City's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue. **Please save the date and plan on attending.**

The NTSP was developed by the Engineering Department, Police Department, and Office of Neighborhoods in response to numerous concerns about speeding on residential streets.

The program will include speed enforcement by the Police Department, educational materials that neighborhoods can use to educate their neighbors about speeding, and physical traffic calming devices or route modifications. Neighborhoods will apply for the program, and speed studies will be conducted. Neighborhoods with the most severe speeding and traffic safety issues will advance to the “engineering” or traffic calming stage.

A draft of the program was first released in 2016, and public comment was taken in public meetings, via email and telephone, and through an online survey. Since then, city staff has pored over the comments and suggestions, resulting in a number of changes to the original design.

Revised program documents will be available early next week [on this web page](#) or by requesting a mailed hard copy at 215-2113.

3. Neighborhoods: Celebrate National Night Out on Oct. 3

Now is the time for neighborhoods around Knoxville to begin making plans for National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

National Night Out is a nationwide, community-police awareness-raising event which the City of Knoxville celebrates on the first Tuesday of October.

If you plan to participate, please send the following information to both KPD Officer John Morgan at jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov and the Office of Neighborhoods at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov:

- *** Neighborhood Group Name
- *** Location (specific address where police should show up)
- *** Beginning and ending times
- *** Activity (i.e. cookout, concert, ice cream social, talent show, etc.)

Even if all you plan to do is encourage neighbors to put their porch lights on to show support for neighborhood watch and for the Knoxville Police Department, please let Officer Morgan know.

Are you looking for ideas? Check [these](#) out. Let’s see how creative neighborhoods can be! And be sure to let the Office of Neighborhoods know your creative ideas by emailing Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

National Night Out began in 1984 through an already established network of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime prevention associations and volunteers across the nation.

The first annual National Night Out involved 2.5 million neighbors across 400 communities in 23 states. However, the event soon grew to a celebration beyond just front porch vigils.

Neighborhoods across the nation began to host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars,

youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more. Today, 38 million neighbors in 16,000 communities across the nation take part in National Night Out.

4. Council to Hold Another STR Workshop

City Council this week will hold the third and perhaps final workshop on the [proposed short-term rental ordinance](#). The workshop begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Works Complex, 3131 Morris Avenue, located near Lorraine Street just south of Middlebrook Pike and the West View neighborhood.

5. Two Council Candidate Events Scheduled

Two new events have been scheduled for voters to meet and greet the candidates running for City Council.

First, the Knoxville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County are hosting a meet-and-greet for voters and District 6 City Council candidates on Tuesday, Aug. 15, from 7-9 p.m. at Shiloh Presbyterian Church, 904 Biddle Street, in East Knoxville.

Second, the **Alice Bell Springhill Neighborhood Association**, along with a host of other neighborhoods, is staging a meet-and-greet event for Council candidates in the fourth and sixth Council districts from 7-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, at Alice Bell Baptist Church, 3305 Alice Bell Road.

If you have a candidate debate or other event that can be reported here and at www.govoteknoxville.com, please contact Paige Travis at 215-3659.

6. Early Voting Begins, Lots of Candidate Info Available

No registered voter in Knoxville has an excuse for not voting in the upcoming City Council elections. Period.

Why? Because early voting is available over a two-week period....and there is a ton of information available on the candidates in the race.

Early voting for the Knoxville City Council Primary Election begins tomorrow – Wednesday, Aug. 9 – and runs through Thursday, Aug. 24.

There are [five early voting locations](#) around Knoxville, with each one open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 6 pm and from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday. On Primary Election Day, voters will need to go to their designated polling location.

Thirty candidates are vying for the Council seats in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. Incumbents in all five seats are term limited. For the primary, voters in each district will vote for one candidate running in that district. The two candidates with the most votes in each district will then run citywide in the Nov. 7 General Election.

Given the large number of candidates in each race, coupled with the traditionally low turn-out for stand-alone City Council elections, the difference between the second and third candidates in each race may be a matter of just a handful of votes. As Election Administrator Leonard Rogers points out, your vote in a City Council election REALLY COUNTS.

To encourage more participation, the City of Knoxville last month launched its **Go Vote! Knoxville** initiative that includes a public rally in each Council district, along with a robust web site with tons of information for voters. For example, you can find out if you are registered, and where you can vote.

Visit www.GoVoteKnoxville.com to see a list of candidates, along with links to their websites, Facebook pages, and Twitter accounts. In addition to contacting candidates directly, and visiting their web pages, voters can learn more by visiting these websites:

*** Community Television of Knoxville provided each candidate with air time to introduce themselves and their stand on the issues. [See videos of the candidates](#) at the bottom of the CTV home page.

*** The Knoxville/Knox County League of Women Voters has compiled [voter guides and sample ballots](#) with detailed responses from the candidates.

*** Before it ceased publishing, the Knoxville Mercury provided [these candidate profiles](#).

*** On August 6, the Knoxville News Sentinel published a [Q&A section with Council candidates](#).

*** Candidate interviews are available on the [WATE](#), [WBIR](#), and [WVLT](#) websites.

Go Vote!

7. MPC to Tackle Parking, C-3 Residential, Other Issues

In its regular second-Thursday meeting this week, the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) will take up several ordinance amendments and other issues that impact neighborhoods and commercial areas near neighborhoods.

The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street. [Here is the agenda](#). Click on items to get maps and background information. Street closures, rezonings, and similar address-specific agenda items are mapped [here](#) on KGIS.

All of the following proposals to amend the zoning ordinance must ultimately be approved by Knoxville City Council before becoming law.

Parking: This is the latest draft of the ordinance amending parking regulations. Minimum parking requirements are reduced for most uses, and maximums are established for the first time. Staff has the ability to waive minimum and maximum requirements “when justification is provided.” Landscape requirements are made uniform for all parking areas, and bicycle parking is addressed. Other provisions are included.

[Residential Uses in C-3 and C-6 Commercial Districts](#): Residential uses are currently prohibited in most commercial zoning districts. This ordinance would allow multi-dwelling structures as a use permitted on review in both the C-3 and C-6 districts. It also establishes review and approval standards for the use. The goal of the amendment is to permit the development of residential uses along these corridors, thereby enlivening the corridors and strengthening the businesses along them and the adjacent neighborhoods.

[Building Size in C-1 Commercial District](#): The C-1 neighborhood commercial district provides for smaller scale “neighborhood stores.” However, there is no limitation on the size of buildings in this district. Over the objections of **Town Hall East**, City Council recently approved a Dollar General on a C-1 parcel on Boyd’s Bridge Pike. With some exceptions, the proposed ordinance amendment would limit C-1 buildings to 5,000 square feet.

In addition, a case originally brought to MPC by Lynn Redmon and the **Norwood Homeowners Association** is on Thursday’s agenda. The matter involves four undeveloped parcels of land on Murray Drive, southwest of Clinton Highway, whose land use designation was changed from Low Density Residential (LDR) to Medium Density Residential (MDR) in the 2015 update to the Northwest City Sector Plan.

Last May Redmon applied for a plan amendment to change the Sector Plan designation for the parcels back to LDR, giving reasons why MDR development should not be allowed on the parcels.

Since then, MPC has become the applicant in this case. Except for one commercial section of one of the lots, MPC staff is recommending that all four lots be changed back to LDR in the Sector Plan. At least one of the property owners is objecting to the change, while Norwood HOA supports the change. [See the extensive case file and correspondence.](#)

Finally, MPC will consider amending its Administrative Rules and Procedures to change the date of the monthly meeting of the Infill Housing Design Review Committee. Now held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, the meeting would change to the first Thursday so that the meeting can be held in the Small Assembly Room. The more accessible location would make it easier for neighborhood representatives to attend.

In addition, the infill housing application form, now enshrined in the Rules and Procedures document, would be removed, allowing staff flexibility to change the form. (No other MPC application forms are included in the Rules and Procedures.)

8. KAT to Boost Service on Routes 12, 22, and 34

KAT --- Knoxville Area Transit --- is planning several improvements to three bus routes starting Monday, August 21.

First, on Route 12 / Western Avenue, the neighborhoods of Beaumont, Lonsdale, West View, Western Heights, Ridgebrook, and Mechanicsville will now have new, direct

service to and from the Food City in Mechanicsville. Food City officials are working with KAT to provide a new shelter near the front entrance, along with an accessible pathway from the front door to the shelter.

Route 12 will also be providing new, direct service to [The Change Center](#), located on Harriet Tubman Street and scheduled to open in early 2018. In addition, a new transfer location on Route 12 will connect with Route 90/Crosstown to continue to provide access to I-640 Plaza for those neighborhoods. Finally, the four neighborhoods will enjoy more frequent service (every 45 minutes) on Sundays.

Neighborhoods along Route 34 / Burlington --- including Austin Homes, Burlington, Five Points, and Walter P Taylor Homes --- will soon have 30-minute service and later evening service, as well as Sunday service. This route also serves The Change Center, as well as several other points of interest such as the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Beck Cultural Center.

Fountain City will now have later evening service along Garden Drive, Jacksboro Pike, and Essary Drive on Route 22 / Broadway. This will allow Fountain City residents the opportunity to travel home from downtown later in the evening, with the last trip departing at 11:15 p.m.

For more detailed information, visit [KAT's website](#) or call 637-3000.

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](#)

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.**