

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 30 – Tuesday, August 15, 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. Bill Whitacre to Perform in Edgewood Park This Thursday

Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association invites everyone to the organization's "Third Thursday in the Park" this coming Thursday, Aug. 17, at 7 p.m.

This month's free music will be provided by William L. "Bill" Whitacre, a resident of Farragut who regularly performs acoustic bluegrass and folk tunes at the Museum of Appalachia and at events throughout Tennessee and the Southeast. Bring a blanket or chair; bring your family and friends; and enjoy this event at the Edgewood Park Gazebo.

Also, Edgewood Park's regular monthly neighborhood meeting will be held this evening (Aug. 15) at the Larry Cox Senior Center, 3109 Ocoee Trail. The group will vote on changes to the bylaws; discuss upcoming events; hear from Circuit Court Clerk candidate Tim Wheeler; and receive reports from the sponsorship, welcome, and events committees.

2. Burlington Residents Association to Host Block Party

The **Burlington Residents Association** invites you to their Pop-Up Block Party from 6-9 p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 19, in "historic downtown Burlington."

The event will be held on Holston Drive in the parking lot between State Burners and the Elks Lodge.

"When you bring community together, community progresses together", says President Dasha Lundy. The event will include food, the music of D.J.D., and lots of fun!

If you would like to be a vendor, it's not too late. Call or text Kim Thaxton at 865-454-3049 to register for a free booth.

3. Meet Our New VISTA Staff Member

The Office of Neighborhoods was lucky enough this year to secure an AmeriCorps VISTA member through our partnership with [CAC AmeriCorps](#).

On Monday we welcomed Hannah Freeman to the city and to our office. She comes to Knoxville from Northern Virginia. She will be with us for 12 months, extending the Office of Neighborhood's reach by working in struggling neighborhoods. Her service year will be dedicated to helping neighborhood organizations increase their capacity in order to serve their communities more effectively.

Hannah graduated last spring from The College of William & Mary with a double major in psychology and history. She has worked as a Resident Assistant, with a differently abled child, and in the environmental, health and safety field. Additionally, Hannah has been actively involved in food desert education and advocacy; co-founded a Phi Beta Lambda chapter at her college; mentored middle school students; and performed volunteer farm labor on several week-long national break service trips.

"This year I am hoping to engage with the community and learn how to support their efforts," Hannah states. "I am interested in learning how government can work with citizens to empower the community so that people have happy, healthy, productive lives."

Please help welcome Hannah to Knoxville. She can be reached at 215-3456 and hfreeman@knoxvilletn.gov.

4. Traffic Safety Program Guide is Now Available

The City of Knoxville has released the [final draft](#) of the Program Guide for the City's upcoming **Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program** (NTSP).

The draft Guide can be found at www.knoxvilletn.gov/trafficsafety, which will serve as the official website for the new traffic calming program when it launches in September.

A public meeting on the NTSP will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, at the City's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue. At this meeting, city officials will address questions, announce the September launch date, and provide other program details.

In the meantime, questions may be directed to traffic.calming@knoxvilletn.gov, David Massey at 215-3232, or Steve King at 215-4993.

Those without Internet access can obtain a hard copy of the Guide via postal mail by calling 215-2113 and leaving a name, mailing address, and phone number.

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, with residents then offering comments and asking questions about the program in public meetings, via email and telephone, and through an online survey.

5. Parkridge Overlay Expansion is Moving Ahead

The proposed expansion of the Edgewood-Park City Historic Overlay District is headed for the Historic Zoning Commission (HZC) this week, according to a schedule released by Kaye Graybeal, the historic preservation officer for the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC).

The expansion requires an amendment to the Knoxville zoning ordinance. The schedule calls for a review and recommendation on the proposed expansion by HZC this Thursday, Aug. 17, and by MPC on Sept. 14. If that schedule is met, City Council would have an opportunity to vote on the ordinance revisions as early as its Oct. 10 and Oct. 24 meetings. (Ordinances require two votes by Council.)

The H1 overlay district is located in the Parkridge neighborhood. MPC’s process of reviewing the historic character of homes in the expansion area was followed by a series of public meetings at which some residents voiced concerns about the impact of the expansion on the ability of lower-income residents to afford improvements required by historic overlay guidelines.

However, at a June workshop on the design guidelines, Graybeal reports, “feedback was received that many of the concerns about cost of repairs were addressed through fee reduction, flexibility of materials in design guidelines, the elimination of review for some items, grants that may be offered by the neighborhood organization, and salvage discounts and fee payments by Knox Heritage.”

HZC meets at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street. See the [HZC agenda](#), the “[designation report](#)” containing a map of the expansion area, and the [proposed design guidelines](#).

6. City to Cut Ribbon on Cumberland Avenue Improvements

Join Gov. Bill Haslam, Mayor Madeline Rogero, members of City Council, Cumberland Avenue business owners, neighbors in Fort Sanders, and members of the public this coming Thursday afternoon to celebrate the completion of the 28-month Cumberland Avenue reconstruction project.

The celebration begins at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy, 1640 Cumberland Avenue.

Ample parking is available at UT's White Avenue Garage, 1621 White Avenue (between 17th and 16th streets. Note that White Avenue runs one-way eastbound. KAT bus Routes 10 and 11 serve Cumberland Avenue as part of the Free Fare Zone.

The Cumberland Avenue reconstruction project began with Knoxville Utilities Board infrastructure improvements in April 2015. Twenty-eight months later, a top-to-bottom modernization is complete – on time and within budget.

Cumberland Avenue between 17th and 22nd streets has been transformed into a safer, more pedestrian-friendly corridor with new utility infrastructure, wider sidewalks, improved traffic flow, a raised median and left-turn lanes at intersections. The public investment of \$25 million has helped leverage more than \$190 million in private investment.

7. Correction: It's Clifford A. Rodgers

An article in [last week's issue](#) of The Neighborhood Advisory reported on early voting for the August 29 Primary Election for five seats on Knoxville City Council....and quoted the administrator of elections at the Knox County Election Commission.

But we totally missed his first name and misspelled his last name. He is correctly identified as Clifford A. Rodgers.

8. 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](#)

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>***

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