



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 33 – Tuesday, September 05, 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 Council to Decide Fourth District Tie

Knoxville City Council will meet in a Special Called Meeting at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow --- Wednesday, Sept. 6 --- to decide what to do about the tie for second place in the Primary Election for the Fourth District seat on Knoxville City Council.

The Aug. 29 Primary Election was held to nominate two persons from each of five City Council districts --- nominees who will now run city-wide in the Nov. 7 General Election. In the Fourth District race, however, Amelia Parker and Harry Tindell tied for second place with 488 votes each. Lauren Rider emerged in first place with 889 votes.

State law authorizes City Council to resolve a tie with a run-off between the two tied candidates; however, the Administrator of Elections for Knox County has advised that there is not sufficient time to conduct a run-off election prior to the Nov. 7 General Election. Consequently, Council will be required to cast a deciding ballot between the two candidates.

Council will decide at their Special Called Meeting on Wednesday afternoon the procedure they will utilize for casting that deciding ballot. It can do so by choosing between the two candidates or by tossing a coin. This latter option, which is not

uncommon in other jurisdictions, would take politics and personal preferences out of the decision making.

A change.org petition is asking for a different approach: "...we consider neither of these methods to be democratic ways to decide an election: one is simply random, and the other favors the status quo and puts the favoritism of existing power brokers over the will of voters. We urge City Council to explore other, more democratic ways of breaking this tie that will allow voters to decide, including if at all possible allowing all three candidates to be on the ballot."

However, according to City Law Director Charles Swanson, allowing three candidates on the General Election ballot is not possible on the current schedule. This would require both a change in the City Charter and a state law change, neither of which could be accomplished in time to fill the seat by the December deadline.

Whatever procedure Council adopts, it is contingent upon the Knox County Election Commission certifying the results of the Aug. 29 primary. The Election Commission is scheduled to meet to certify results on or about Sept. 15.

2. Meet the Candidates Thursday Night

The nominees for five open seats on Knoxville City Council have been invited to attend the City's last "Go Vote! Knoxville" event from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. this Thursday, Sept. 7, at Christenberry Recreation Center, 931 Oglewood Avenue.

Mayor Madeline Rogero, 5th District City Councilman Mark Campen, Knox County Election Commission staff, and League of Women Voters representatives will also participate in the free event. Everyone is welcome to attend and meet the candidates vying for the seats in the Nov. 7 General Election.

Not since 2009 has City Council experienced this level of turnover: Five of the nine current Council members are term-limited after serving two four-year terms. So the Nov. 7 election will determine a majority of the next City Council.

The number of people who voted in last week's election was up by about 75 percent from the number who voted in 2009, the last time these same Council seats were on the ballot and there were no incumbents running. A total of 7,140 voters cast ballots – the most in a non-mayoral primary election since term limits took effect in 2001.

Candidates who emerged victorious from the primary election were:

District 1: Stephanie Welch and Rebecca Parr.

District 2: Andrew Roberto and Wayne Christensen

District 3: James Edward Corcoran and Seema Singh Perez

District 4: Lauren Rider (first place) and Amelia Parker and Harry Tindell (tied for second place)

District 6: Gwen McKenzie and Jennifer Montgomery

See the [unofficial vote totals](#) from the primary election. GoVoteKnoxville.com is a source for election and candidate information and a calendar of candidate forums.

3. Traffic Safety Program to Launch Next Week

The City of Knoxville's new Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP) will start next Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Approximately 80 people turned out for the Aug. 30 public meeting on the new program. Community Television filmed the presentation and the question-and-answer session that followed. [See the video](#). The presentation references the [draft Program Guide](#) and the [Major Road Plan](#).

Next Tuesday, the NTSP website at www.knoxvilletn.gov/trafficsafety will be updated to include the official application and petition documents ready for download. For those without Internet access, call 215-3232 to receive documents in hard copy form, delivered by postal mail.

4. Darris Upton Joins Office of Neighborhoods

Darris Upton recently joined the Office of Neighborhoods as this year's College of Social Work Master's level intern, working Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through next April.

Darris was formerly in the United States Navy, where he served as an Air Traffic Controller. Upon his honorable discharge, he sought assistance from the Veteran's Administration. After having a frustrating time of it, he found his new mission to help others through social work.

His interests include policy changes at state and local levels, reversing the impacts of food deserts, the Save Our Sons program, and many others. He will be working on a number of different neighborhood-related projects and can be reached at dupton@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3077.

We feel lucky to have Darris join our team, along with VISTA Hannah Freeman and Volunteer Johnathan Blevins.

5. Register Now for Class on Using KGIS Maps

A workshop on how to make full use of www.kgis.org will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at the City's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue.

KGIS --- the Knoxville, Knox County, KUB Geographical Information System --- operates the multi-layered website.

The class is free, but registration is required. If you plan to attend, please notify Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or leave your name and contact information at 215-2113.

Wi-Fi is available. The first 15 participants to bring a laptop will be able to log on to the website during the workshop.

This workshop is important to neighborhood groups, because KGIS can answer lots of common questions --- such as who owns properties in the neighborhood, the correct school zones and political districts that cover your neighborhood, information on blighted properties, and whether anyone is seeking a rezoning or use-on-review.

In addition to picking up tips and understanding how to use various tools and applications, participants will learn how to navigate the newest KGIS app – the [Neighborhood Groups Viewer](#), which maps the boundaries of neighborhood groups in the city.

Staff from KGIS and the Office of Neighborhoods will conduct the workshop, which will end no later than 8 p.m.

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

Now is the time for neighborhoods around Knoxville to begin making plans for [National Night Out](#) (NNO) on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

NNO is a nationwide event to raise awareness about safety issues and to strengthen the bond between the community and the police. The City of Knoxville celebrates NNO 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.)

Not sure what your group can do? Check out [these ideas](#) for NNO activities.

7. NAC to Discuss Cell Towers, 5G Technology

The Neighborhood Advisory Council ([NAC](#)) this month will focus its attention on cell phone towers and the changes coming to residential neighborhoods as a result of the fifth generation (5G) of wireless technology.

NAC will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine St. All are welcome.

The speakers will be Jeff Archer, a principal planner at the Metropolitan Planning Commission, and Jim Hagerman, director of the Engineering Department for the City of Knoxville.

Archer will focus on proposed changes to the city's cell tower ordinance. The proposed changes will be considered by MPC commissioners on Sept. 14 and then go before City Council in October. [Get the scoop on the new ordinance.](#)

Hageman will discuss the Engineering Department's role in implementing new guidelines for locating antennas in city rights-of-way, including in residential neighborhoods. These smaller scale but more numerous antennas are required to meet the requirements of 5G wireless devices. See [an overview](#) and [the guidelines](#).

NAC is a 15-member body of volunteer neighborhood leaders who are appointed by the Mayor to provide advice and feedback to the Administration on neighborhood issues. The group usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Learn more on [this web page](#) or contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382.

8. City Seeks Candidates for Neighborhood Advisory Council

Are you an advocate for your neighborhood --- and neighborhoods in general? Would you like to learn more about how city government works? Do you enjoy discussing public policy, particularly with regard to neighborhoods? Would you like to work with other neighborhood leaders on neighborhood issues?

If you answered YES to these questions, then please consider serving on Mayor Madeline Rogero's [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC).

The NAC meets at 4:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss Knoxville's residential neighborhoods and provide the city with candid viewpoints on how they can best be maintained, supported, improved, rejuvenated and sustained.

NAC consists of neighborhood leaders and activists who occupy a total of 15 seats --- two in each of the six City Council districts and three at large. Terms are for three years, and members may serve up to two full terms (six years). Members wishing to serve a second three-year term must reapply.

The terms of five of the 15 seats expire this December. These seats, current occupants and general territory are:

*** Seat 2-B (Jennifer Reynolds) – West Knoxville

*** Seat 4-B (Robbie Arrington) -- North Knoxville east of Broadway, north of Cedar Lane and east of Parkdale Road, Old North Knoxville, and portions of Chilhowee Hills and Holston Hills

*** Seat 5-A (Ann White) – North Knoxville west of Broadway and Parkdale Road, Oakwood Lincoln Park, Inskip, Lonsdale, and a portion of Norwood.

*** Seat 6-A (David Gillette) – Most of East Knoxville, Mechanicsville, Beaumont, and Sutherland Avenue to Third Creek

*** At Large Seat C (Lola Alapo) – citywide

In addition, two other seats are vacant, with one full year remaining in the terms, because the members are moving out of Knoxville.

Bill Hutton, immediate past president of Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, has retired and is moving to Middle Tennessee. He has resigned from Seat 5-B.

Jenny Wright, president of the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization, is moving to Macon, Ga., to become Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at the Mercer University School of Law. She is resigning from Seat 4-A.

Both Bill and Jenny made important contributions to their neighborhood organizations and to the health of all city neighborhoods, and they will be missed. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

To be appointed to a numbered seat, you must live in that City Council district. For example, the person appointed to Seat 4-B must be a resident in the fourth City Council district.

If you would be interested in serving, please fill out and submit an application, which is [located online here](#). Or call David Massey in the Office of Neighborhoods at 215-3232 to have a hard copy mailed to you. Call David if you wish to learn more about the position. Mayor Rogero makes the appointments.

To view the exact boundaries of the City Council districts, browse to <http://www.kgis.org/kgismaps/map.htm> and then click on Maps, Political District Maps, and City Council. You can also input your own address to find out which political districts you live in.

9. Offer Your Comments on Annual Performance Report

A draft of the City of Knoxville's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) will be available for citizen review and comment for a period of fifteen days beginning Sept. 11, 2017 and ending Sept. 25, 2017.

The report describes how the City of Knoxville spent Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Act funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during the program year that ended June 30, 2017.

The report will be available on Sept. 11 in the City's Community Development Office located on the 5th Floor of the City-County Building, 400 Main Street, and on the City's web-site at www.knoxvilletn.gov/development under "Reports and Plans."

The draft report will also be mailed to interested parties upon request by calling Cicely Henderson in the Community Development Department at (865) 215-2120.

Questions and comments about the CAPER may be submitted to Linda Rust at (865) 215-2357, lrust@knoxvilletn.gov or mailed to City of Knoxville, Community Development Department, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville TN 37901. All comments must be received no later than Sept. 25, 2017.

10. Learn about Trees, Become a Volunteer Forester

Take two neighborhoods. One has lots of healthy trees. The other one does not. Which neighborhood is a more pleasant place to live? Which one has higher property values?

You know the answers. Neighborhood organizations have a vested interest in looking out for the trees on private property in their communities. And here is a way you can build your organization's expertise on this subject.

The nonprofit organization [Trees Knoxville](#) --- working with the City of Knoxville --- is once again offering its 4-week training program for individuals who wish to assist and lead volunteers in upcoming tree programs.

"This is a great opportunity for neighborhood members throughout the City who are looking to become tree stewards in their community," noted Kasey Krouse, the City's urban forester.

The program will take place from 6-9 p.m. on Monday evenings, starting Sept. 18 and ending on Oct. 9. Sessions will be led by green industry professionals and University of Tennessee experts. The classes will include an introduction to Knoxville's urban forest, proper tree selection and planting, the science and art of pruning, tree health care, and invasive species awareness. [See a detail course outline.](#)

The cost is \$50 for over 15 hours of education and learning. Each class will include on-site tours or demonstrations. To register, [sign up here.](#)

Questions can be answered through Trees Knoxville at treesknoxville@gmail.com or 865-356-0470. Visit the Tree Knoxville website at www.treesknoxville.org.

11. 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)
- [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.