



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 35 – Tuesday, September 19, 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. Neighborhood Groups Gear Up for National Night Out

Neighborhoods across the City are announcing plans to celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday evening, Oct. 3.

It is not too late to get something going. If your group plans to participate, please notify the City so that police officers, elected officials, City Council candidates, and others know to stop by. 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. In the Knoxville Police Department's West District (west of I-640), **Westavia Woods Neighborhood Watch** will hold a potluck supper, and **West Haven Village Neighborhood Community** is staging a cook-out.

In the East District (east of I-640 and south of the river), events include a hotdog social (**Harrill Hills Neighborhood Watch**), a chili contest with cake walk and music (**South**

Woodlawn Neighborhood Association), a taco bar (**Spring Hill Villas HOA**), and a potluck supper (**Inskip Community Association**).

Newly formed **We Care Neighborhood Watch** will hold an ice cream social. Cook-outs are planned by **Burlington Residents Association**, **Chilhowee Park Neighborhood Association**, and **Vestal Community Organization**.

Finally, **Old North Knoxville** residents will share food at the ONK Park, and **Dandridge Avenue Neighborhood Watch** (along with some other East Knoxville groups) will enjoy dinner at the Beck Cultural Center.

Keeping with its tradition, **Cumberland Estates West Neighborhood Watch** will hold its NNO event – a chili cook-off – on Oct. 5.

Some groups demonstrate support for NNO and the community-police partnership by urging neighbors to simply turn on their porch lights for the evening.

2. City Fights Blight with Construction Loans

Did you know that the City of Knoxville provides loans to individuals, non-profits, or businesses who want to restore a blighted property?

It is not uncommon for a bank to balk at loaning money to restore a severely blighted home. Many banks consider such a loan too risky. This is where the Blighted Property Redevelopment Program (BPRP) may be able to help --- by providing bridge financing.

Using loans from the BPRP, developers have successfully constructed or rebuilt homes in the Five Points, Fountain City, Lonsdale, Mechanicsville, Oakwood Lincoln Park, Old North, and Parkridge neighborhoods.

(Information such as this will be provided in a “Fight the Blight” workshop series that begins on Oct. 5. See next article.)

Unlike some of Community Development’s other housing programs, BPRP has no income restrictions, because the purpose of this program is to restore blighted properties and return them to the tax rolls.

The property must be unoccupied and in the control of the applicant. In addition, the property must be

- 1) Listed in the City of Knoxville’s [Homemakers Program](#), or
- 2) Identified by Knox Heritage and/or included in their “Fragile Fifteen” list, or
- 3) Determined or Certified as “Blighted” or Condemned by the [Better Building Board](#), or
- 4) Posted “unfit for human habitation”, or
- 5) Listed on the City of Knoxville’s Chronic Problem Property List.

Check out the other conditions and restrictions in the [BPRP Guidelines](#) and then [download the two-part application](#).

3. Fight Blight in Your Neighborhood: Learn the Ropes

The City of Knoxville's Neighborhood Codes Enforcement team, in cooperation with the Office of Neighborhoods and other city departments, is conducting a 5-session workshop focused on the challenges posed by blighted properties.

The workshops will be held on five consecutive Thursday evenings, starting Oct. 5 and ending Nov. 2. The location is still to be determined. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. The sessions will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m.

To participate in this workshop, please fill out [this online form](#). Or call David Massey at 215-3232 for a hard copy to be mailed to you.

Anyone interested in learning more about blighted properties is urged to participate. This workshop will be especially useful to someone who is a member of an established or emerging neighborhood organization that is seeking to address blighted properties on a systematic basis.

Applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29.

At the workshop, neighborhood group representatives and other residents will learn how and why properties become blighted, examine the nuts and bolts of city code enforcement, and hear about public and neighborhood efforts that address blight. They will share views and concerns about blight and the city's response. The group will also discuss placemaking projects that can help counter the negative impacts of nearby blighted properties.

4. Help Knoxville Reduce Losses from Natural Disasters

What types of natural disasters give you the most concern?

What more can be done to reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property damage resulting from earthquakes and severe weather?

Officials from Knox County, the City of Knoxville, and the Town of Farragut are seeking citizen input on these questions as part of a process to update the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. In this case, "hazard mitigation" means the action of reducing the severity or seriousness of a natural disaster such as an earthquake or tornado.

Citizen input is very important, according to emergency management officials. The update process begins with public input and ends with adoption and implementation of a plan. Here are two things you can do to participate:

- 1) [Take this survey](#). It takes just a few minutes of your time.
- 2) Attend the public meeting that will kick off the planning process for the plan update. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, at the Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Avenue.

Help spread the word about this process. [Download the information flier.](#)

5. Open Streets Set for Last Sunday of October

The Open Streets event is coming to South Knoxville on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 29, stretching from the Gay Street Bridge down Sevier Avenue to Suttree Landing Park.

Sponsored by [Bike Walk Knoxville](#) with significant support from the City of Knoxville's Engineering, Police and Public Service Departments, Open Streets "brings together community groups and local businesses, giving people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to walk, ride bikes, hula hoop, and more in a safe fun setting."

Whether you are a business or organization located on the route, or not, there are many opportunities to participate as a sponsor, performer, vendor, information booth, and/or volunteer. To learn more, visit www.openstreetsknoxville.com.

This is the fifth Open Streets event since the fall of 2015. [See photos.](#)

6. Bike Walk Knoxville Sponsors North Broadway Tour

[Bike Walk Knoxville](#) will hold its final "Bike and Walk Summer Tour" of the season on Thursday evening, Sept. 28, along North Broadway.

Participants will gather at 6 p.m. at the south end of the Broadway Shopping Center and walk south to the Hall of Fame interchange, then head back north to Cecil Avenue, and to the Coker/Woodland intersection with Broadway. Along the way, the group will view the segment of the First Creek Greenway that is under construction.

The walk will be followed by Mexican food and conversation at La Herradura Food Truck on the west side of Broadway just north of Washington Pike. Along this route, BWK says, "there are many discussion points and opportunities to provide assistance and safety to the residents who walk, use wheel chairs, and bicycles for transportation."

The purpose of the tour is to demonstrate both favorable and unfavorable conditions for walking and bicycling. "There is an emphasis on how our current and proposed ordinances and regulations address sidewalk and bike facility construction," says the BWK website. "The tours provide participants an opportunity to engage with their elected officials in a relaxed setting, ending at a brewery or restaurant..."

7. City Seeks Funding Proposals for Historic Preservation

The City of Knoxville is seeking proposals for funding historic preservation projects in the city.

Visit <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/bids> and look for "Funding for Improvements to Historic Buildings." Among other conditions, applicants must own the property, which must be located within City limits. Funding will be secured by a deed of trust on the property.

Application deadlines are as follows:

*** 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017: Mandatory pre-proposal meeting at the City of Knoxville Public Works Center (3131 Morris Avenue). Your proposal will not be considered if you don't attend this meeting.

*** 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, 2017: Deadline for questions to be submitted in writing to Assistant Purchasing Agent Penny Owens.

*** 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 13, 2017: Proposals are due.

Mayor Madeline Rogero created the Historic Preservation Fund with an initial commitment of \$500,000 in the 2014-15 budget, and City Council has renewed the fund at that level each year since. A total of 21 historic homes, churches, theaters and other buildings have received grants.

"This fund helps bridge financing gaps for historic properties that can be renovated but may not qualify for traditional bank loans," said Becky Wade, the City's Director of Community Development. "All of the buildings these grants have supported are important to their neighborhoods and Knoxville's history."

Questions about the RFP should be directed to Penny Owens, purchasing agent, at powers@knoxvilletn.gov or (865) 215-2648.

8. Neighborhoods: Help a Child Read at Grade Level

Here is an opportunity for neighborhood organizations to support students in the elementary schools in or near their neighborhoods.

[Great Schools Partnership](#) (GSP) needs volunteers for "Leaders for Readers" --- a volunteer program whose aim is to increase the number of third graders who can read at grade level.

The following elementary schools still need volunteers: Beaumont Magnet, Fountain City, Inskip, Spring Hill, and West Hills. You can live anywhere in the City and volunteer for this program. Learn more and sign up at www.greatschoolspartnership.com/leaders-for-readers. Or call Nicole Lewis at 215-2820.

"As someone who spends much of my day communicating by reading and writing, I am grateful for those who pushed me to read more and to read often as a child," Lewis said recently. "I encourage everyone to take part in an important effort to help our future leaders develop a love and a skill for reading!"

9. Grow Your Garden: Fall Edibles

Join the [Center for Urban Agriculture](#) for the conclusion of this year's Grow Your Garden series. Participants will learn how to save seeds for next year, propagate herbs from cuttings, and grow a fall vegetable garden. Workshop attendees will also take home heirloom vegetable seeds, rooted cuttings, and plant divisions.

Class times and locations are:

*** 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept 20, SEED Knox, 1617 Dandridge Ave.
*** 12:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept 21, Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine St.
*** 9:00 a.m. Saturday, Sept 23, Center for Urban Agriculture at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens, 2649 Boyd's Bridge Pike.

Those who live, work, or study in 37914, 37915, or 37917 are invited to participate for only \$5! Members of the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum or the YMCA may participate for \$15. The general public's cost of registration is \$20 per person.

The Grow Your Garden series is offered through the Center for Urban Agriculture as a partnership between the [Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum](#), [SEED Knox](#), and the Cansler Family YMCA in an effort to help people grow food for themselves and others. For information, email cua@knoxgarden.org.

10. 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.*