

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 03 – Tuesday, January 23, 2018

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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. VCO Organizes Work Day at Vestal Arch Gateway Park

The **Vestal Community Organization (VCO)** is calling for a neighborhood work day this coming Saturday, Jan. 27.

Neighbors will gather at 1 p.m. at the Vestal Gateway Park on the corner of Martin Mill Pike and Ogle Road. In addition to general clean-up, VCO officer Regis Ann Borsari reports, "We will be planting and mulching fruit trees."

With a Neighborhood Small Grant, other grant funds, and donations, VCO constructed the arch and a pavilion in the Vestal Gateway Park that leads to the Mary Vestal Greenway extension. This property is on a city-owned lot that had been the site of an abandoned gas station. The group also planted and continues to maintain a wildflower meadow on the site located in the heart of "downtown Vestal."

Include your neighborhood group's news in this space. Contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

2. Deadline Extended for Neighbor of the Year and Neighborhood Awards

[Neighbor of the Year](#) Nominations will be accepted through Feb. 5 and [Neighborhood Achievement](#) Applications will be accepted through Feb. 19.

Due to the holidays, we have extended the deadline to send in your nominations for these awards.

Do you know of someone in your neighborhood that goes over and above to help others without looking for recognition? Did your neighborhood do something really unique and different that brought in new people?

We want to recognize all the good work that people and neighborhoods are doing in the community. Recognition will be given at The Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, Mar. 24. If you have questions, contact Debbie Sharp, 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

3. Seeking Door Prizes for Neighborhood Conference

The Office of Neighborhoods is soliciting door prizes as it gears up for the annual Neighborhood Conference this March.

This year, we are reducing the number of prizes and giving larger value prizes. Smaller value prizes will be packaged together to reach a \$50 minimum. Prizes that have proven popular in the past include gift cards, restaurant coupons, memberships, event tickets, jewelry, bicycles, and household items.

For their support for Knoxville's residential neighborhoods, donors will receive recognition in this newsletter, on Facebook, on our Website, and at the conference itself. [See a list of last year's donors](#). To make a donation, contact David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

4. Call for a PowerPoint and Photo Creative Artist

The Office of Neighborhoods is looking for a volunteer to create the neighborhood slide show for the March 24 Neighborhood Conference.

If you know Microsoft PowerPoint, have some creative energy begging for a project, and wish to make a contribution to your community, please consider volunteering for this role. For more, contact David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

5. Call for Neighborhood Photos

Many activities and events occur in Knoxville's neighborhoods throughout the year.

Neighborhood groups hold meetings, organize neighborhood cleanups, gather at potlucks, and engage in numerous community service projects. Do you have photographs of your neighbors, your neighborhood, homes, streets, and group activities that you want to share?

The Office of Neighborhoods is preparing a slide show of photographs that will be shown throughout the day at **The Neighborhood Conference**, to be held Saturday,

March 24, at the Knoxville Marriott. Images will be grouped together by neighborhood, so this is a great way to showcase and promote your neighborhood.

Send your digital photos to dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov with your neighborhood name in the subject line. Be sure to include the name of the neighborhood organization and a phone number. Photo captions are optional. Call David at 215-3232 if you have questions. Please include a photo of your neighborhood entrance sign if you have one. **Photos are due Feb. 21.**

6. Morningside Heights HOA Hosts Community Café

Morningside Heights Home Owners Association hosts a Community Café on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Morningside Heights Community Center, 1617 Dandridge Ave. The Café is facilitated by Hannah Freeman, the AmeriCorps VISTA for the Office of Neighborhoods.

The Community Café is an adaptation of the [World Café method](#), a method for conversational leadership. The World Café process uses the collective knowledge of community stakeholders to provide profound and inclusive insights into various issues. Using this process, Community Café seeks first to connect active residents across the city and second to provide community support for neighborhood specific issues and solutions.

This particular Community Café will focus on barriers to voter education and registration within lower income neighborhood groups. All active residents of Knoxville's neighborhood groups are welcome; however, this café focuses on providing opportunities for lower income neighborhood groups to collaborate. Limited coffee and refreshments will be provided as guests connect to uncover solutions concerning barriers to voter education and registration.

The Office of Neighborhoods is available to assist any neighborhood groups who may wish to host a Community Café. For questions about the Feb. Community Café or to learn more about hosting your own Community Café, contact Hannah Freeman at 215-3456 or hfreeman@knoxvilletn.gov.

7. Elected Officials to Speak at South Knoxville Town Hall

Officials who represent South Knoxville at the state and local levels will hold a Community Town Hall from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at South Doyle Middle School, 3900 Decatur Drive. All are invited to attend and participate.

The elected representatives will include State Sen. Becky Massey; State Reps. Rick Staples, Eddie Smith and Harry Brooks; First District City Council member Stephanie Welch; Ninth District County Commissioner Carson Dailey; and Ninth District Board of Education representative Amber Rountree.

They will present updates on South Knoxville projects and participate in a question-and-answer session. Topics are expected to include the BMX track at South-Doyle Middle, parks projects, and real-estate development in South Knoxville. For more, contact Carson Dailey at 865-215-2534 or carson.dailey@knoxcounty.gov.

8. Bring Crime and Safety Concerns to PARC This Thursday

The Police Advisory and Review Committee ([PARC](#)) will hold their quarterly meeting at 6 p.m. this Thursday, Jan. 25, at the offices of the Knox County Education Association (KCEA), 2411 East Magnolia Avenue.

The meeting, headed by PARC Executive Director Clarence Vaughn, is open to the general public and to citizens who have concerns about crime and safety in the City of Knoxville. Representatives from the Knoxville Police Department will be in attendance. The meeting's agenda will include committee business, speakers who have requested to address the committee, and an open forum (limited to three minutes per speaker).

To sign up to speak at the meeting, call 865-215-3869.

PARC is a civilian oversight committee that audits the discipline process and the policies and procedures of the Knoxville Police Department (KPD). Its purpose is to strengthen the relationship between the citizens of the City of Knoxville and KPD; to assure timely, fair and objective review of citizen complaints while protecting the individual rights of police officers; and to make recommendations concerning citizen complaints to the Chief of Police and to the Mayor.

9. BBB to Consider Three Blighted Properties

Three properties are on the agenda for this month's Better Building Board (BBB) meeting at 3:30 p.m. this Thursday, Jan. 25, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

They are 450 Cedar Avenue, 1127 Colonial Avenue, and 2122 Harvey Street. A fourth property at 1846 Prospect Place has now been rescheduled to the February BBB meeting.

Neighbors affected by these properties may wish to be present to testify on their impact on the neighborhood. [See a full copy of the BBB agenda](#), with details and owner information on each property.

Under the Chronic Problem Properties ordinance, the City's Community Development Department is seeking a certification of blight on all three properties. If the BBB first determines and then later certifies that a property is blighted, and if the owner fails to take corrective action, the City can then acquire the property at fair market value, using its eminent domain powers if necessary.

Blighted properties acquired by the city are listed for sale through Community Development's [Homemaker's Program](#).

10. Testify on Blighted Properties at Public Officer Hearing

Eleven (11) properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26.

The Public Officer --- David Brace, Knoxville's Chief Operating Officer and Deputy to the Mayor --- will hear testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. Testimony can also be made by the property owners, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders, such as lien holders.

The Public Officer then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Failure by the owner to cure the problem may result in the boarding or demolition of a structure, or the cleanup of a dirty or overgrown lot, with costs billed to the owner. A property owner may appeal the Public Officer's decision to the Better Building Board and, ultimately, to Chancery Court.

The properties to be heard for repair/demolition orders are:

4025 Catalpa Avenue, 1228 Connecticut Avenue, 1020 Delaware Avenue, 216 Douglas Avenue, 2018 Island Home Avenue, 2005 Maplewood Drive, 4524 Nora Road, 5301 North Ozark Road (rescheduled from 12/1/17 POH), 2037 Seminole Avenue (including accessory structure), and 2312 Sunvalley Road (including accessory structure).

Also, there will be a hearing for a Confirmation of emergency repair order on 3337 Shields Avenue.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, you or a representative of your organization may wish to attend the meeting to submit testimony about the impact of the property on the neighborhood. The full January 26 [agenda](#), with details on each property, can be found by close of business today.

11. NAACP Seeks Answers on Affordable Housing

The [NAACP](#) Housing Committee has rescheduled one session of its ***Answers to our Affordable Housing Questions*** series and has announced a third session. Here are the dates, locations and speakers. All sessions begin at noon. Feel free to bring a lunch.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 at Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church on College Avenue: The speaker is Ben Bentley, director of KCDC. He will address questions about KCDC's "big picture." A separate answer session on Section 8 will be scheduled at a later date.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, Multipurpose Room Side B, CAC's LT Ross Building on Western Avenue: This session was rescheduled due to last week's snow storm. Linda Rust, City Office of Community Development, will address the City's affordable housing initiatives and plans.

Tuesday, Feb. 26, venue to be announced: Matt Sterling, a private contractor and advocate for workforce housing, will answer questions about workforce housing and the "Missing Middle."

For more information, contact the NAACP at KnoxvilleNAACP@gmail.com.

12. Time Running Out to Apply for Type 3 Short Term Rental Unit Permits

Are you operating a Short Term Rental Unit (STRU)? The ordinance regulating STRUs went into effect on Jan. 2, 2018 and the City is now issuing permits. There are three different types of permits available and one is time limited, so act quickly.

--Type 1 Permit: Owner Occupied in Residentially Zoned Districts, where the owner and operator lives at the STRU.

--Type 2 Permit: Non-Owner Occupied in a Non-Residentially Zoned District, where the owner is not required to live at the STRU.

--Type 3 Permit: Non-Owner Occupied in Residentially Zoned Districts, where the property owner does NOT live at the STRU and it is residentially zoned.

Type 3 Permits are ONLY available through Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018. Time is running out on these! After Feb. 1, if you are operating a non-owner occupied STRU in a residential area WITHOUT a permit, you will be in violation of the ordinance AND you will not be eligible to get a permit. However, if you get your permit, you can operate until Jan. 1, 2019. Additional restrictions apply to the Type 3 Permit; you can view the full ordinance at the link below.

You can apply for your permit in the City of Knoxville Business Tax Office on the 4th Floor, Room 450, of the City County Building.

Also, if you are applying for a permit in a residential district, you must notify your neighborhood association, if there is one, and the adjacent property owners to the STRU. If you need assistance with finding this information, contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

The City of Knoxville has employed an enforcement software program that will track and report unpermitted STRUs. The owners of unpermitted STRUs should expect notification about their illegal operation in the next several weeks.

For more information see the City of Knoxville's Short Term Rental [website](#) or go to the [Training for Hosts](#).

[13. 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 Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 215-2831.

Other Calendars

Here are 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.*