

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 12 – Tuesday, April 10, 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. NAC to Discuss Best Practices for Neighborhood Organizations**

The [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC), a 15-member body appointed by the Mayor, meets this Wednesday, April 11, to discuss the possible introduction of criteria for neighborhood groups to be recognized by the Office of Neighborhoods (OON).

This subject arose last year, when a group protested a decision by the Office of Neighborhoods not to include them in the [Knoxville Neighborhood Directory](#).

The group was added back to the Directory while an NAC committee and office staff studied various ways to certify neighborhood groups. The Office of Neighborhoods will present its suggestions, which will be the beginning of the discussion on this subject. A survey of neighborhood organizations and a public comment period will ensue before a final decision is made.

Also on the agenda, the NAC is interested in starting a forum for neighborhood leaders to aid in communication. The committee working on this will discuss their ideas.

If you are interested, come and listen to the discussion to learn more about next steps. For questions, contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382.

### **2. Workshop to Offer Ideas for Neighborhood Projects**

Are you struggling to come up with an idea for a neighborhood improvement project or program? Do you have an idea but need help figuring out how to carry it out? Are you curious about funding from the City of Knoxville and other sources?

The Office of Neighborhoods (OON) is offering a Grant Ideas Workshop on Monday, April 30, 6-7 p.m.

Come with knowledge of your neighborhood's strengths and challenges, and we will talk about opportunities to seek funding. Along with helping to formulate ideas, OON will also provide a handout of funding resources for neighborhoods to raise money.

Contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) to register for this work session and to receive details about the location.

The 2019 cycle for OON's Neighborhood Small Grants Program begins later this spring. The application and guidelines will be posted on May 8, and mandatory pre-application workshops will be held in late May and early June. Proposals will be due on July 17, and winning proposals will be funded by January 2019 for projects carried out in 2019.

### **3. Fountain City Neighborhood Leader Succumbs**

Joe Edward Hitch, Sr., a neighborhood leader in Fountain City for many years, died in late March at the age of 89.

He had been a member of the board of **Fountain City Town Hall** in its early days, and most recently he was the coordinator of the **Villa Gardens Neighborhood Watch**. A veteran of the Korean War, Hitch volunteered for the Red Cross, the Knoxville Police Department, the Knox County Sheriff's Office, and many other events and organizations. He will be missed.

### **4. School Board to Vote on Budget**

Knox County School Board votes tomorrow night on their fiscal year 2018-2019 [budget](#) .

The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building. All are invited to attend.

The board will be discussing and voting on Knox County Schools Superintendent Bob Thomas' proposed budget, which includes the elimination of the Project GRAD program and the magnet programs at Green Academy and Sarah Moore Greene Elementary School.

For more information, see this account of Monday's meeting in the Knoxville News-Sentinel [article](#).

Any thoughts you have on the subject can be directed to the [Knox County School Board](#) as well as [Knox County Commission](#).

### **5. Early Voting Begins Wednesday**

Early voting in the Knox County Primary Election begins Wednesday, April 11, and runs through Thursday, April 26. Election Day is Tuesday, May 1.

The 10 early voting locations include the City County Building, Love Kitchen, New Harvest Park, Downtown West, and Clinton Plaza Shopping Center. Hours generally run from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, but there are exceptions. [See a list of early voting locations and hours.](#)

There are 38 Republican and Democratic [candidates](#) for County Mayor, Sheriff, Trustee, Circuit Court Clerk, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, five Knox County Board of Education seats, and five Knox County Commission seats. [See the Sample Ballot.](#)

See the Sunday, April 8, edition of the Knoxville News Sentinel for articles on these candidates and races.

## **6. League Sets Candidate Forums on April 11 and April 18**

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville and Knox County has scheduled two forums for the Knox County Mayor and Knox County Commission races.

A Knox County Mayor Candidate Forum will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. this Wednesday, April 11, at West High School Auditorium, 3300 Sutherland Ave. Four of the candidates have confirmed attendance --- Brad Anders, Glenn Jacobs, Linda Haney and Rhonda Gallman. The League reports that Bob Thomas is unable to attend. The forum will be moderated by former local TV news anchor Gene Patterson.

A forum for at-large candidates for Knox County Commission will be held one week later --- from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18 --- at the Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Ave. This forum will be co-hosted by the Alpha Pi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. John North, news director of WBIR-TV, will moderate. All six at-large candidates will participate: Larsen Jay, Ronnie Rochelle and Tori Griffin (At-Large Seat 10) and Justin Biggs, R. Larry Smith and Daniel Gerke (At-Large Seat 11).

## **7. Thursday's MPC Agenda Includes Neighborhood Items**

The Metropolitan Planning Commission this Thursday will act on requests for rezonings and uses-on-review in several Knoxville neighborhoods.

MPC meets at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building. [Here is the April agenda](#), where you can also find information on attending and speaking at an MPC meeting. The neighborhood-impact items include:

\*\*\* **Fort Sanders:** Land Development Solutions, acting on behalf of Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center and Foundation, is requesting that [1805 Laurel Avenue](#) be rezoned from R-2 residential to office zoning district. The proposed use is parking. MPC staff is recommending approval.

\*\*\* **Lonsdale:** B.J. Murrian seeks to rezone a vacant lot at [3208 Johnston Street](#) from C-1 neighborhood commercial to residential in order to build a house. MPC staff recommends approval.

\*\*\* **Oakwood Lincoln Park:** Jerry Bridges seeks to rezone [432 E. Morelia Avenue](#) at the corner of Harvey St. from R-2 residential to GC general commercial. MPC staff recommends denial.

\*\*\* **Oakwood Lincoln Park:** Dwayne Lay, owner of 105 Cedar Ave., seeks to rezone this [residentially zoned vacant lot](#) to C-6 general commercial for a warehouse. MPC staff recommends approval of the C-6 zoning.

\*\*\* **West Hills:** Developer Jim Sullivan seek approval for a concept plan and a use on review for [The Cove in West Hills](#), a detached residential subdivision that would be built at the intersection of Broome Road and Marlboro Road. MPC staff recommends postponement until the May meeting.

\*\*\* **West View:** Daniel Mercado is asking that [3211 Joyce Avenue](#) be rezoned from R-1A low density residential to R-2 general residential for a “multi-dwelling attached residence.” MPC staff is recommending denial because the owner can request a use-on-review for a multi-family development.

## **8. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets April 19**

Thirteen properties are on the agenda for next week’s meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Established by city ordinance, BZA hears appeals of denials of building permits by the city's Building Inspections Department. The board, consisting of five citizens appointed by the Mayor, meets at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

BZA meets Thursday, April 19. Addresses on the agenda include 1221 N Central Street, 2012 N. Broadway, 940 Eleanor Street, 215 Willow Avenue, 2506 Johnston Street, 4705 Ridgedale Road, 9638 Kingston Pike, 1708 Boone Street, 2609 Woods-Smith Road, 2615 Woods-Smith Road, 7600 Kingston Pike, 857 N. Central Street, and 216 Montvue Road.

Keep up with how the BZA might impact your neighborhood. Watch for signs indicating that there is a pending decision on a particular piece of property. Most signs are for Metropolitan Planning Commission issues --- which are also important --- but signs with the word “variance” are BZA items. (Learn how MPC changed the way it handles [notification signs](#).)

The BZA agenda is posted on the city website. Browse to [www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards) and click on Board of Zoning Appeals. The agenda is posted no later than the Monday prior to the BZA meeting each month.

A neighborhood group that keeps track of BZA will call the Plans Review & Inspections Department at 215-3669 to request and study the paperwork on a particular appeal, decide whether to take a position on the appeal, and then attend the BZA meeting to voice the group’s support or objections. A group can also request a postponement to allow time to meet with the applicant.

Decisions of the BZA can be appealed within 15 days of the BZA decision to Knoxville City Council. Appeals of a City Council decision are made to Chancery Court within 60 days of a City Council decision related to BZA.

**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 [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto: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.*