



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 16 – Tuesday, May 8, 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 Recruiting and Retaining Members, Volunteers

Recruiting and retaining members and volunteers for neighborhood organizations will be the primary focus of this month’s meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Council ([NAC](#)), with Neighborhood Coordinator David Massey facilitating the discussion.

NAC meets from 4:30-6 p.m. this coming Wednesday, May 9, at the Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street. All are invited to attend and participate. NAC meets every second Wednesday of the month (except July and December).

2. Neighborhood Small Grants Program Opens for 2019

The Office of Neighborhoods has launched the 2019 season for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP).

Copies of the NSGP Guidelines and Application can be found [on this city web page](#). Note that the Application, a PDF file, will be replaced by a fillable PDF in the next few days. Proposals are due July 30 and will be judged on a competitive basis. Submit proposals on or before July 23 to have staff review your application for completeness.

To apply for a grant under the NSGP, your organization must send a representative to ONE of the following mandatory workshops:

*** Saturday, May 28, 10 a.m.-12 noon

*** Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m.-12 noon

*** Thursday, June 14, 6-8 p.m.

Contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382 to register for one of the workshops. When you register, you will receive the location of that workshop.

Even if you doubt that your neighborhood group will apply this year, sending a representative ensures that you are eligible to apply. Participation can also assist your group in planning for a 2020 grant application.

3. This Thursday: Community Meeting about the Urgent Care Center

Helen Ross McNabb recently opened its new Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC), which was created to provide an alternative to incarceration for individuals who are charged with a misdemeanor; who exhibit symptoms of mental illness, substance abuse, and similar disorders; who are nonviolent; and who might respond positively to treatment.

Both the City of Knoxville and Knox County played roles in the creation of the new facility, which was dedicated and opened earlier this year. The program, which is voluntary, calls for individuals to stay at the facility for up to 72 hours while they stabilize and learn about available options. The goal is to provide ongoing case management services to those who wish to make a change in their lives.

Located on Ball Camp Pike, the BHUCC engendered lots of community concern when it was proposed last year. Now that it is open, and in response to continued questions, the Office of Neighborhoods is conducting a community meeting about the BHUCC at 7 p.m. this coming Thursday evening, May 10, at Third Creek Baptist Church, 4917 Western Avenue. All are welcome. The meeting will end by 8:30 p.m.

Making brief presentations will be Jerry Vagnier, executive director of Helen Ross McNabb; Randy Nichols, special counsel to Knox County Sheriff Jimmy Jones; and Captain Don Jones, patrol division captain, Knoxville Police Department. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

4. Neighborhood Leaders: Go to a “Recode Knoxville” Open House

If you are an active member of your neighborhood organization and you have not yet gotten your arms around the proposed new zoning code, now is your chance. Dig in now or play catch-up later. Your choice.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission ([MPC](#)) has scheduled four, hours-long, drop-in Open Houses from May 16-19. By attending an open house, citizens not only can hear a general presentation of the zoning code update, but also take the opportunity to ask in-depth questions of MPC staff. Here are the details:

*** Wednesday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at City of Knoxville’s Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Avenue. Presentations are at 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

*** Thursday, May 17, 3:00-7:30 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepard, 5409 Jacksboro Pike, Fountain City. Presentations are at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

*** Friday, May 18, 7:30-11:30 a.m. at Oakwood Lincoln Park Club House, 916 Shamrock Avenue. Presentations are at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

*** Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Overcoming Believers Church, 211 Harriet Tubman St. Presentation is at 10:30 a.m.

In addition, Knoxville City Council will hold a zoning code workshop starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building. The purpose of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for Council members to engage in an in depth discussion of and ask questions about the first draft of the code with the Camiros consulting firm that is assisting MPC and the City with the code drafts.

The first draft of the new code --- which can be found at <https://recodeknoxville.com/> along with other helpful information --- is a result of months of discussion and public input, with more meetings and public input to follow before a final draft is placed before the Metropolitan Planning Commission and Knoxville City Council this fall.

5. Tip for Neighborhood Groups: Introductions & New Business

Imagine you are a city resident attending your neighborhood group's monthly meeting for the first time --- because you have a matter you would like to bring to everyone's attention.

You have been asked to sign in, giving your name and contact information. No problem.

You have no idea who's who, although one person does engage you briefly in conversation. The president opens the meeting with a few announcements and then introduces the speaker for the evening. The presentation is followed by Q&A, after which the meeting is adjourned.

Yep. No one recognized you or welcomed you as new. No time was set aside for new business so that you could bring your up your concern. You are shy anyway, so you would have needed some real encouragement to speak.

Will you go back? Not likely.

Attendance at most neighborhood meetings is small enough to allow time to ask everyone to introduce themselves and their street. It also helps to ask each person to briefly explain their role in the organization: officer, past officer, longtime member, active for the last 3 meetings, brand new, visitor --- whatever.

This helps everyone put names with faces and helps the first-timer personalize and humanize the strangers in the room. And it helps established members identify the newbies they should plan on speaking to as soon as the meeting ends. After all, this new person represents the future of the organization.

The icing on that cake is to set aside time during the meeting for new business, and to ask if anyone has any issue they need to bring to the attention of the group. Ask this in a way that encourages folks to speak up.

Now imagine you attend a neighborhood meeting for the first time, feel welcomed during the introduction process, and have time to ask your question and get some feedback and response.

Will you go back? Most likely.

6. CAC AmeriCorps Seeks Applicants

[CAC AmeriCorps](#) is seeking applications from young people who would like to serve their community while gaining real-world experience and improving their professional skills.

The service terms range from 10 to 12 months, starting August 2018. Service positions include a modest living stipend, access to health insurance, and the Segal Education Award upon completion of service.

For the coming year, CAC AmeriCorps will focus on three main areas of service. Its traditional environmental Corps will have 34 members focusing heavily on environmental education and member management; 20 members in its infrastructure Corps will focus on hands-on improvement of public lands, trails and waterways; and 18 Corps members will address poverty-related issues through eliminating barriers to jobs, food and education.

The Environmental Corps and Infrastructure Corp are for members from 18-25, and the Poverty-Focused Corps is for ages 18 and up.

If you know of high school or college students getting ready to graduate, rock star interns, friends, family members and others who might be interested, have them visit www.cacamericorps.org or call Program Director Jason Scott at 546-3500.

The City of Knoxville, including the Office of Neighborhoods, has hosted multiple AmeriCorps members over the past several years with great success. Service opportunities are available across other governments and nonprofit organizations across the region.

7. Apply for District Attorney's Citizens Academy

If you are interested in attending this year's Citizens Academy hosted by the [Knox County District Attorney General's](#) Office, [applications](#) are now being accepted.

The Citizens Academy is a behind-the-scenes look at the criminal justice system. Participants learn about the specific roles of law enforcement, attorneys, and the courts. Sessions include Criminal Justice 101, the "CSI Effect", the opioid epidemic, gangs, human trafficking, and other trends impacting our community. Participants will also engage in a mock trial, arguing a criminal case as prosecutors.

The series of sessions begins on Tuesday, September 4, and runs for seven consecutive Tuesdays through Oct. 16. All sessions run from 6-8 p.m.

The application deadline is Friday, June 29, and program acceptance notice is Friday, July 20. To be eligible to attend, you must be at least 18 years old, live or work in Knox County, and agree to a background check to be completed by the District Attorney General's Office.

Contact Emily Scheuneman at Emily.scheuneman@knoxcounty.org or 215-3736 for more information.

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 scCook@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.*