

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 27 – Tuesday, August 14, 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. OON Seeks Ideas for Future Workshops**

As many of you know, the Office of Neighborhoods has reduced the number of workshops offered during The Neighborhood Conference; and the plan is to provide these workshops throughout the year.

We want to hear from you. What topics are important to you? What would your neighbors like to know more about? What subjects are still confusing within the City?

If you have ideas for future workshops, please email Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) with 'Future Workshop' in the subject line.

### **2. Town Hall East Celebrates With Ice Cream Social**

**Town Hall East** will host an ice cream social, dubbed the Neighborhood Scoop, on Saturday, Aug. 25 from 2-4 p.m. in Tank Strickland Park, 4618 Asheville Highway, next to the Burlington Branch Library.

Come for games, free ice cream, free lemonade and a raffle for door prizes! Town Hall East would love to see you there!

For more, contact David Lee at [daelwlee@yahoo.com](mailto:daelwlee@yahoo.com).

### **3. Mark Your Calendars: 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mechanicsville Homecoming**

The **Mechanicsville Community Association** is preparing for its 13<sup>th</sup> annual homecoming, which will be Saturday, Sept. 1, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Danny Mayfield Park, across from Maynard Elementary School.

Every year, the community gathers to celebrate neighbors, community partners, and the year's successes. Homecoming activities traditionally include a parade, presentation of the King and Queen of Mechanicsville, prizes, booths, fashion show, youth talent showcase, and much more!

If you would like to support the Homecoming, you can purchase an advertisement in the Homecoming Program Souvenir Booklet. For more on the Homecoming or to purchase an advertisement, contact Rita McKinnon at [rmck@knology.net](mailto:rmck@knology.net).

#### **4. Six Teams Gear Up for Wiffle Ball Tournament**

We now have six teams ready to play in the Wiffle Ball Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 25, at Victor Ashe Park, 4901 Bradshaw Road.

**Forest Heights Neighborhood Association, Island Home Park Neighborhood Association, Timbercrest Neighborhood Association, West Hills Community Association, Westmoreland Hills Homeowners Association, and Westwood Homeowners Association** are registered to compete in the second annual Wiffle Ball Tournament.

The deadline to register has passed. However, even if you did not register to participate, come join the fun by watching and cheering on your favorite team.

Check-In for registered teams will begin at 8 a.m. with the first games beginning at 9 a.m.

#### **5. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets This Thursday**

The City of Knoxville Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will meet Thursday, Aug. 16, from 4-5 p.m. in the City County Building's Small Assembly Room, 400 Main St., to discuss 16 properties up for consideration.

BZA listens to appeals on denied building permits. Applicants whose requests have been denied by the City's Plans Review and Inspections Department can request a variance from the Zoning Code requirements or appeal an administrative official's interpretation of the Zoning Code to the BZA.

Addresses on the agenda include 1931 Middlebrook Pike, 619 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Drive, 2704 Mineral Springs Avenue, 7621 Kingston Pike, 3312 Kenilworth Lane, 214 Sequoyah Gardens Way, 816 Gratz Street, 703 Luttrell Street, 121 Chickamauga Avenue, 5511 Kingston Pike, 520 W. Summit Hill Drive, 1829 Forest Avenue, and 1833 Forest Avenue.

The five BZA members, nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council, listen to zoning appeals the third Thursday of each month. Applications for appeal are typically due the Monday prior to the BZA meeting, the third Monday of the month.

The board meets prior to the 4 p.m. meeting, in the City County Building, Room 511 at 3 p.m. to discuss the pre-agenda. This week's agenda can be found [here](#).

Keep up with how the BZA might impact your neighborhood. Watch for signs indicating a pending decision on a particular piece of property in your area. Look for signs with the word "variance," these are good indicators of BZA items. Most other signs indicate properties up for Metropolitan Planning Commission review. Learn more about MPC notification signs by following the link.

If your group would like 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, call the Plans Review & Inspections Department at 215-3669. Your 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 the City Council decision.

## **6. Public Meeting For Chapman Hwy Upgrades Scheduled for September 5**

The City of Knoxville and MPC want your input for the section of Chapman Highway between Blount Avenue to just past Governor John Sevier Highway.

A public meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 5, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at South Doyle Middle School, 3900 Decatur Drive.

This will be set up as an "Open House" style meeting and neighbors can arrive any time. For more information about this project visit [here](#).

All are welcome.

## **7. Zoning; It's Shaping Knoxville's Future**

Imagine that someone gave you a blank sheet of paper and asked you to draw a map of what YOU want Knoxville to look like. What would you draw?

Would you like to see more thriving businesses? More trees? More sidewalks? Would you want more affordable housing? More grocery stores?

If you got to decide, how would you plan out your dream city?

This is what the City of Knoxville is asking you to do this year with the Recode Knoxville Project. By updating the City's zoning ordinance, they are taking real ideas from citizens and turning them into guidelines for shaping Knoxville's future.

First it is important to understand zoning.

For every piece of property within the City of Knoxville's limits, there is an assigned zoning code which determines what can and cannot be done on that property. These codes are in place to protect residents and neighborhoods from pollution, heavy traffic,

noise pollution, and commercial or industrial buildings. Zoning codes also help to keep your property value up and make sure neighboring properties are compatible with their neighborhoods (for example, you would not want a factory with toxic chemicals right next to a daycare).

These zoning codes are the most powerful tool a local government has to control land use. The zones are determined by the [Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission](#). Any changes to the zoning code must be approved by the Planning Commission first, which is a citizen board made up of seven City Mayor appointees and eight County Mayor appointees, then they are approved by City Council.

This year, the City of Knoxville is reviewing and updating the zoning codes to: (1.) adapt to changes in the city and (2.) respond to feedback from Knoxville residents about how they want their city to be. Updating the zoning code creates a lot of opportunities for:

- More affordable housing
- More jobs within walking distance from where people live
- More pedestrian-friendly and public transportation-friendly neighborhoods
- More shared community spaces and green spaces
- More places you can walk or bike to, from your house or workplace
- More attractive commercial areas

As a result of these changes, these characteristics can make Knoxville more attractive to new businesses that can bring more money into our city and neighborhoods. It can also make Knoxville more attractive to people looking for these opportunities in their neighborhoods.

This rezoning process relies very heavily on public feedback. This is YOUR city. YOU should have a part in deciding what it will look like. How can you do that?

1. Take [this survey](#).
2. Attend a [Recode meeting](#).
3. Share this information with your neighborhood.

Zoning helps residents create how their communities will evolve. Now, what do you want Knoxville to look like?

## **[8. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#)** (click link for 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.*