

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory #201 – Friday, February 1, 2013

1. Pond Gap Elects Officers
2. Fourth & Gill Plans Annual Meeting
3. Use “Suspicious Activity Form” to Help Knoxville Police
4. Fountain City Town Hall Supports Planning, MPC Funding
5. MPC Schedules Public Meetings for One Year Plan Updates
6. Citizens Academy to Teach Local Government, Citizen Involvement
7. Thinking Spring Cleanup? Schedule a Trash Container Soon
8. City Council Reschedules Workshop
9. Neighborhood and Government Calendar

Published by the City of Knoxville’s Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville’s residential neighborhoods.

1. Pond Gap Elects Officers

Pond Gap Area Neighborhood Association reports that it has elected officers for the coming year. They are David Williams, president; Pete Waggoner, vice president; Susan Waggoner, secretary; Russell Hall, second vice president; and Jackie Bonbin, chair of the beautification committee.

2. Fourth & Gill Plans Annual Meeting

The Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization will hold its annual meeting on Monday evening, February 11, at Central United Methodist Church, 201 Third Avenue.

Bring a dish to share at the potluck supper, which begins at 6:30 p.m. The annual meeting begins at 7 p.m. Members will elect four individuals to the 11-member board, which has staggered board terms. There will also be a review of accomplishments for the 2012 calendar year.

3. Use “Suspicious Activity Form” to Help Knoxville Police

In Sequoyah Hills recently, neighbors used a 300-member Facebook page and a group email list to quickly spread the word about a suspicious person who was roaming the neighborhood and knocking on doors.

If someone came to the door, the person would ask for “Jessica.” If no one answered, the person went to the back door, kicked it in, quickly assembled valuables, and called a cohort in a car who was watching out for police. The car would come up the driveway, collect the loot, and scoot.

Input from neighbors, such as descriptions of the vehicle and numbers on the license plate, along with information developed by the Knoxville Police Department, resulted in six adults being charged with a total of 38 home and vehicle burglaries in the city and county.

This incident underscores the importance of neighborhood watch. To help citizens provide important details of a crime or suspicious activity, KPD has developed a new Suspicious

Activity Form”. Space is provided for suspect description, vehicle details, and other information.

Sometimes witnesses forget what they’ve seen or don’t realize the importance of small details. This form will help. Visit <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/kpd/default.asp> and look for the blue box with the heading “Report Suspicious Activity.”

4. Fountain City Town Hall Supports Planning, MPC Funding

If you haven’t noticed, “planning” has become a bad word in some circles.

Rather than a process by which communities make open and rational decisions about land use, transportation, infrastructure and future development, “planning” to some property rights advocates and others is interpreted as unwarranted governmental intrusion into the lives and livelihood of average citizens.

This in turn has led some elected officials to suggest that planning is not necessary, that the Legislature should weigh in with new regulations limiting if not eliminating the planning process, and that funding for planning agencies should be reduced.

This issue recently was explored by Metro Pulse in an article entitled, “Who’s Afraid of the MPC?” See <http://www.metropulse.com/news/2013/jan/09/whos-afraid-mpc/>

MPC is the Metropolitan Planning Commission, which serves multiple functions for both the City of Knoxville and Knox County.

In response to these developments, the board of Fountain City Town Hall on January 14 voted to send a letter to state and local officials “in support of maintaining the existing planning organization structure established by State Law for the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). Further, we support continuing the funding of MPC.”

The letter continues:

“We value independent, professional planning and recognize its importance to the future of our city and county. Elected officials deal with complex issues. There is no question that better decisions are made and long-term community goals are better served when a variety of information is available, including independent, professional advice.

“Good planning improves the quality of life for all citizens. And, in the long run, saves tax dollars by avoiding unintended costly problems that government must later solve using tax dollars. Such solutions are always more costly than doing it right the first time.

“The present organizational structure MPC continues to meet the needs of our community and we believe is superior to other models. It is independent and provides opportunities for citizen input and for the appeal of decisions.”

The letter came from the Town Hall board and its land use co-chairs, Charlotte Davis and former City Councilwoman Carlene Malone.

Town Hall's endorsement of planning and of MPC is especially significant since Davis and Malone have often been at odds with MPC staff on a variety of issues. "Granted, over the years we have disagreed with some MPC recommendations," the letter concludes. "However, there is no question that all communities have benefited from the expertise of the MPC. For these reasons we ask that the present organizational structure of MPC be maintained and that MPC continue to be funded so that it can continue to effectively serve our community."

The letter was mailed to Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, City Council, County Commission, and the Knox County legislative delegation.

5. MPC Schedules Public Meetings for One Year Plan Updates

The development services staff of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) will hold three public meetings in February to review preliminary proposals for updating the City of Knoxville's One Year Plan and to gather input from citizens on their ideas for amending the plan.

This is important to neighborhood groups because the One Year Plan serves as the basis for zoning decisions made by MPC and City Council. Here are the dates for the three public meetings aimed at different parts of the city:

** West and Northwest sector updates: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church, 7234 Middlebrook Pike.

** North, East and Central sector updates: 6 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, New Harvest Community Center, 4775 New Harvest Lane.

** South sector update: 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 26, Community Room, Flenniken Landing, 115 Flenniken Avenue.

The Knoxville City Charter requires that a One Year Plan be developed and adopted in order to tie zoning districts to the Comprehensive Plan for the community. The Charter also requires development of 15-year sector plans and a 5-year capital Improvement plan for policy and mid-range guidance for the One Year Plan.

After these public hearings, the One Year Plan will be considered by MPC on March 14, and City Council in April.

Questions or comments about the 2013 One Year Plan update should be directed to Mike Brusseau at 215-2500 or mike.brusseau@knoxmpc.org.

See www.knoxmpc.org to view the current plans. Scroll over "Plans and Studies" and click on "Sector Plans."

6. Citizens Academy to Teach Local Government, Citizen Involvement

It is not too late to sign up for the Citizens Academy, a series of classes for citizens of Knoxville and/or Knox County who want to improve and make changes in their communities.

Sponsored by the Knoxville-Knox County League of Women Voters, the training will take place from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on February 16 and February 23, and from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. on March 9, with a reception following.

Participants will learn “a new understanding of how city and county government work, practical approaches to dealing with community issues, and an invaluable experience right inside the halls of the city-county building,” the League states.

“Applicants should already be engaged and active locally either on their own or as part of an organization that betters our community,” according to the League’s guidelines. Applications from members of organizations that are discriminatory in nature will not be considered.

The application form can be found at www.lwvknoxville.org. Those without Internet access can request a copy by calling 865-408-8GOV. Leave a message with your name and address. The completed form can be submitted by email to League@lwvknoxville.org or by mail to League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County, P.O. Box 31825, Knoxville, TN 37930. The deadline is Sunday, Feb. 10.

7. Thinking Spring Cleanup? Schedule a Trash Container Soon

If your neighborhood organization is thinking about scheduling a cleanup event this year, and if you will need a large trash container provided by the city, then now is the time to reserve your container.

The Public Service Dept. offers trash containers free of charge to neighborhood groups for neighborhood-wide cleanup projects, but there are a limited number of containers and crews to handle them, so it’s a very good idea to schedule your container as soon as you nail the dates for your cleanup event.

PSD offers two types of drop-off containers --- trailers and courtesy boxes. A trailer is familiar to anyone who has seen a city crew picking up brush. It is on wheels, is very large and has high sides, meaning it takes some muscle to pitch in heavy items. It is most appropriate for large-scale cleanup projects. A courtesy box is about one-third the size of a trailer, is easier to fill because the sides are not as high, and is more appropriate for neighborhood cleanups.

Call 311 to schedule a container on a first-come, first-served basis. Do this at least 6-8 weeks in advance of your cleanup event. Weekends (drop off Friday, pick up Monday) are in greater demand; mid-week slots are easier to schedule.

A neighborhood representative should be prepared to give the 311 operator a daytime phone number for follow-up questions and to insure proper location.

Anyone requesting a container must also provide a location where it is to be dropped. Make sure the spot is relatively level and large enough for the container and the cab dropping it off. If vehicles are blocking the designated spot, the crew will not leave the container.

This program is available for residential and neighborhood use only, not contractors, businesses or landlords. Also, do NOT use containers for dirt, concrete, tires, construction debris, gas, paint and chemicals. Violators may be cited and may be prohibited from scheduling another container.

8. City Council Reschedules Workshop

A City Council workshop postponed because of a snow storm has been rescheduled to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 28, in the large assembly room at the City County Building, 400 Main Street.

Council will tackle details of two proposed ordinances. One would regulate the siting of crematoria in the city --- those associated with funeral homes as well as stand-alone facilities. The other would allow, with a use on review, a group of houses to be oriented primarily toward a courtyard, rather than the street, in certain residential zones.

9. Neighborhood and Government Calendar

Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-3232.

All government meetings will be held in either the Large or Small Assembly Room unless otherwise noted. For a complete list of meetings of various city boards and commissions, visit <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/calendar/>.

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at 215-2034 or scook@cityofknoxville.org no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

Monday, February 4 --- 11 a.m.

Henley Bridge Project Update

Who: Commissioner John Schroer and other TDOT officials

Where: Upper Parking Lot, Tennova Riverside, East Blount Avenue

Parking: Across street at Henley Community Center, 220 East Blount Avenue

Monday, February 4 --- 5:00 p.m.

Knox County School Board – Work Session

(Monday before the regular meeting, except holidays)

First Floor Board Room

Andrew Johnson Building, 912 South Gay St.

For agenda, work sessions, and other items:

Visit <http://knoxschools.org/>. Click on “Board of Education

Monday, February 4 --- 5:30 p.m.

Council of Involved Neighborhoods (COIN)

(First Mondays except holidays)

CAC/Luke Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue

Dave Gartner, 862-2066

Monday, February 4 --- 6:30 p.m.

Wesley Neighbors Community Association

Bearden Branch Library, 100 Golf Club Road

Tuesday, February 5 --- 7 p.m.

Mechanicsville Community Association (First Tuesdays)
Fairview Recreation Center, 1628 Dora Street
Charles Wright, 637-1802

Tuesday, February 5 --- 7 p.m.

City Council (Every Other Tuesday)

<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil>

Agenda: <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/agenda.pdf>

Wednesday, February 6 --- 5:00 p.m.

Knox County Board of Education

Monthly Meeting (Normally first Wednesdays)

Large Assembly Room, City County Building

For agenda, work sessions, and other items:

Visit <http://knoxschools.org/>. Click on "Board of Education"

Friday, February 8 --- 6:00 p.m.

Beaumont Community Organization (Second Fridays)

Beaumont Elementary School, 1211 Beaumont Ave.

Dennis Murphy, 237-9481

Monday, February 11 --- 6 p.m.

Cold Springs Neighborhood Watch (second Mondays)

Magnolia Avenue Methodist Church, 2700 Magnolia (Harrison St. Entrance)

Terrell Patrick, 525-4833

Monday, February 11 --- 6 p.m.

Vestal Community Organization (second Mondays)

South Knoxville Community Center

Newman Seay, 577-4593

Monday, February 11 --- 6:30 p.m.

Belle Morris Community Action Group (second Mondays)

City View Baptist Church, 2311 Fine Avenue

www.bellemorris.com

Rick Wilen, 524-5008

Monday, February 11 --- 6:30 p.m.

Potluck Supper (6:30) and Annual Meeting (7 p.m.)

Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization

Central United Methodist Church, 201 Third Avenue

<http://fourthandgill.wordpress.com/>

Tuesday, February 12 --- 11:45 a.m.

Agenda Review, Metropolitan Planning Commission

(Tuesday before MPC's monthly meeting)

Small Assembly Room, City County Building

Tuesday, February 12 --- 6:30 p.m.

Lonsdale United for Change (Second Tuesdays)

Lonsdale Recreation Center, Stonewall Avenue

Steve Ritter, 973-0877

Tuesday, February 12 --- 7 p.m.

Mechanicsville Neighborhood Watch Association (Second Tuesdays)
Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, College Street
R. Bentley Marlow, 607-4357

Wednesday, February 13 --- 11:30 a.m.

Community Forum (Every Second Wednesday)
West Knoxville Library, 100 Golfclub Road at Kingston Pike
Sue Mauer, 690-0269

Wednesday, February 13 --- 4:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Advisory Council
(Every Second Wednesday except July and Dec.)
CAC/Luke Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue
<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/neighborhoods>
David Massey, 215-3232

Wednesday, February 13 --- 6 p.m.

Public Meeting, One Year Plan Amendments
For the West and Northwest Sectors
Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church, 7234 Middlebrook Pike
View the One Year Plan at www.knoxmpc.org
Mike Brusseau, MPC, 215-2500

Thursday, February 14 --- 1:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Planning Commission (Second Thursdays)
<http://www.knoxmpc.org>
Agenda: <http://agenda.knoxmpc.org>

Saturday, February 16 --- 10 a.m.

South Haven Neighborhood Association (third Saturdays)
Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 1615 Price Avenue\
Pat Harmon, 591-3958

Monday, February 18 --- 7 p.m.

Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization
Board Meeting (Third Mondays except January)
Location Varies
Judith Neff, merlin2@comcast.net

Tuesday, February 19 --- 10 a.m.

Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council (Third Tuesdays)
CAC/MLB Building, 2247 Western Avenue
(See <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/food.asp> for bylaws, community garden toolkit etc.)

Tuesday, February 19 --- 6 p.m.

Delrose Drive Neighborhood Watch (third Tuesdays)
Riverview Baptist Church, 3618 Delrose Drive
Corina and John Buffalow, 523-0102

Tuesday, February 19 --- 7 p.m.

Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association (Third Tuesdays except December)

Larry Cox Senior Center, 3109 Ocoee Trail

Tuesday, February 19 --- 7 p.m.

City Council (Every Other Tuesday)

<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil>

Agenda: <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/agenda.pdf>

Wednesday, February 20 --- 6 p.m.

Public Meeting, One Year Plan Amendments

For the North, East and Central Sectors

New Harvest Park Community Center, 4775 New Harvest Lane

View the One Year Plan at www.knoxmpc.org

Mike Brusseau, MPC, 215-2500

Thursday, February 21 --- Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m. Meeting @ 8 a.m.

East Knoxville Business & Professional Association (Third Thursdays)

Open to Neighborhood Residents and Leaders

Speaker: Sam McKenzie, Knox County Commissioner

Burlington Library, 4614 Asheville Highway

Charles Morgan, cwm826@aol.com, Gray Hodges Corporation, 522-3113

www.EastKnox.org

Thursday, February 21 --- 8:30 a.m.

Historic Zoning Commission (Third Thursdays)

<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/historic.asp>

Thursday, February 21 --- 12 p.m.

KUB Board of Commissioners (Third Thursdays except July)

Historic Miller's Building, 445 S. Gay Street

See www.kub.org. Click on "About Us" at top of the page.

Thursday, February 21 --- 4 p.m.

City Board of Zoning Appeals (Third Thursdays)

Small Assembly Room

Pre-Agenda Meeting: 3 p.m. in Room 511

<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/zoning.asp>

Thursday, February 21 --- 6 p.m.

Inskip Community Association (Asociación de la Comunidad de Inskip)

Community Meeting (Third Thursdays)

Inskip Baptist Church, 4810 Rowan Road

Betty Jo Mahan, 679-2748, bettymahan@knology.net

Thursday, February 21--- 6:30 p.m.

Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association

Monthly Meeting (Third Thursdays)

Community Club House, 916 Shamrock Avenue at Henagar Street

Monday, February 25 --- 1:45 p.m. (zoning at 5 p.m.)

Knox County Commission

(Every Fourth Monday, Jan.-Oct. Third Mondays, Nov.-Dec.)

www.knoxcounty.org/commission

Agenda: Click on "Meetings" and then "Commission Agendas"

Public Forum held at beginning & ending of meeting.

Zoning Issues heard starting at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, February 26 --- 6 p.m.

Public Meeting, One Year Plan Amendments
For the South Sector
Community Room, Flenniken Landing, 115 Flenniken Avenue
View the One Year Plan at www.knoxmpc.org
Mike Brusseau, MPC, 215-2500

Thursday, February 28 --- 9 a.m.

Special Events Community Meeting (Fourth Thursdays, Jan.-Oct.)
"Meet with city services that may assist in planning your event."
Civic Coliseum Ballroom, Third Floor
Free Parking available at Civic Coliseum Parking Garage
Office of Special Events, 215-4248

Thursday, February 28 --- 3:30 p.m.

Better Building Board
(Last Thursday, Jan.-Oct. First Thursday, Dec.)
Small Assembly Room, City-County Building
<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/betterbuilding.asp>

Thursday, February 28 --- 5:30 p.m.

Knoxville City Council Workshop
Topic 1: zoning ordinance regulating crematories
Topic 2: zoning ordinance to permit courtyard development in some residential districts
Main Assembly Room, City County Building

Friday, March 1 --- 9:30 a.m.

Public Officer Hearing – Neighborhood Codes Enforcement
(Usually held on the Friday following Better Building Board meetings)
The PO considers action on violations of city's building codes.
Small Assembly Room, City County Building

Monday, March 11 --- 5:30 p.m.

Downtown Residents Quarterly Meeting
Central Business Improvement District
Knoxville Chamber offices, 17 Market Square
(Future meetings in 2013: 6/10, 9/9, 12/9)
<http://downtownknoxville.org/>
Michele Hummel, 246-2654

Saturday, March 23 --- 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Conference
Knoxville Convention Center
Office of Neighborhoods
David Massey, 215-3232

Monday, March 25 --- 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association
Bi-Monthly Meeting (4th Monday, odd months)
Woodlawn Christian Church, 4339 Woodlawn Pike
Janice Tocher, 686-6789

- ** This Advisory is produced on most Fridays of the year.
- ** Ideas and contributions are welcome. Call 215-3232.
- ** May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.
- ** See past issues at our Website: www.cityofknoxville.org/neighborhoods
- ** Don't have Internet access? Call 215-3232 if you need a copy of a particular document.
- ** Published by Office of Neighborhoods, Community Development Dept., City of Knoxville.