

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 7, No. 1 – Friday, January 3, 2014

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

1. Networking Luncheon Will Connect City Neighborhoods

The City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods will sponsor a city-wide "Neighborhood Networking Luncheon" on Saturday, March 8, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

The lunch event will be useful to anyone interested in the health and vitality of Knoxville's residential neighborhoods, especially members and leaders of Knoxville's 120-plus neighborhood groups. The event will feature opportunities for sharing ideas and making cross-neighborhood connections.

The winner of the *Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award* will also be announced at this event. Nominations are now being accepted. (See article below.)

Event details, including networking options and how to register, will be announced later.

The March 8 date had been reserved for an all-day neighborhood conference on the scale of the one held last March. However, after consultation with the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council and others, the Office of Neighborhoods has decided to produce the large county-wide conference every two years. A city-wide neighborhood event of some type, such as this year's networking lunch, will be held in the alternate years.

2. Nominate the Good Neighbor of the Year

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile to make his or her neighborhood a better place?

Perhaps they welcome new neighbors, volunteer to help neighbors in distress, or work tirelessly in service to the entire neighborhood and/or neighborhood organization.

How about someone who tries to make sure everyone in the neighborhood feels included? Or who shows up to lend a hand at every neighborhood potluck, community cleanup and neighborhood meeting?

There are many people who fit this description. Why not nominate someone you know for a Good Neighbor award?

The *Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award* is presented annually to a Knoxville resident who — in a spirit of cooperation and with commitment to inclusive community — has devoted time and talent in service to his or her neighbors and neighborhood.

Named after the late Diana Conn, the award is meant to honor someone who makes a positive contribution at the neighborhood level without seeking recognition for their service.

Nominations are now open and will be accepted through Friday, January 31, 2014. The nominee must be a resident of the City of Knoxville and must have made a contribution to their community during calendar year 2013, although their service may have begun long before.

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council will choose the winner from the pool of nominees. The winner will be honored during the Neighborhood Networking Luncheon to be held Saturday, March 8, 2014, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

To learn more, and to obtain a copy of the Good Neighbor Nomination Form, visit this web page:

<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/development/neighborhoods/neighboraward.asp>

Call Natalie Crone at 215-3456 to have a hard copy of the nomination form mailed to you.

3. Neighborhood Directory Updated; Please Check Your Listing

The Office of Neighborhoods has updated the Knoxville Neighborhood Directory, which can be found here:

http://www.cityofknoxville.org/development/neighborhoods/Knoxville_Neighborhood_Directory.pdf

This directory lists a wide variety of resident-led, resident-controlled neighborhood organizations inside Knoxville city limits, including watch groups, tenant organizations, neighborhood associations and traditional HOA's.

Please check your group's listing. If the information is not correct, please let us know! If your group is not listed, or if you know of a group that should be included, please contact David Massey at 215-3232.

A listing in this directory ensures that your group can be contacted as necessary. The Office of Neighborhoods often gets requests asking if a particular neighborhood has a formal organization. These requests come from neighborhood residents (potential new members for your organization), city departments, other neighborhoods, developers, businesses, Metropolitan Planning Commission, and others.

4. Elementary Children Discuss Choices for Healthy Living

Several Knox County fourth and fifth graders can now be found on You Tube, talking about the healthy changes they would like to see in their neighborhoods.

Visit http://youtu.be/XsIE_oZ65i8) to hear their suggestions for making the healthy choice the easy choice where we live, study, work, play and worship.

"We hope this video can spark discussion about healthy living in our neighborhoods," notes Erin Read, coordinator of the "Together! Healthy Knox" program in the Knox County Health Dept. The video was produced by YMCA of East Tennessee, Together! Healthy Knox, and the Knox County Health Department with grant money from Pioneering Healthier Communities, a Y-USA initiative.

If you have questions about the video or the program, contact Erin at the Knox County Health Department at 215-5549 or erin.read@knoxcounty.org.

5. City Seeks Public Comment on New Plan to Address Homelessness

The City of Knoxville has developed and released a draft plan to address homelessness in the city, and a public meeting has been scheduled to gather comments and concerns about the plan from the general public.

The public input session will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine St. A City Council workshop on the proposed plan is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building.

The draft is available for public review and comment on the City's website, at <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/development/homelessnessplandraft2014.pdf>.

Comments will be accepted for 45 days, so that they may be considered before the new plan is finalized.

To create the plan, Mayor Madeline Rogero convened a new Mayor's Roundtable on Homelessness, bringing together the executive leadership of agencies, ministries and organizations that provide services, shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness in Knoxville.

The Mayor and city staff then worked with the Roundtable's members to pull together strategies, public input and federal resources and requirements into a plan that makes sense for Knoxville.

"Homelessness is a complicated issue, and effective responses require collaboration among many different partners," Mayor Rogero said. "This plan is not a solution to any single problem. It is a framework that we will use to coordinate efforts to address both short-term and long-term challenges for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless."

This new plan draws from priorities established through the Compassion Knoxville public input process in 2011, from the successful components of the previous homelessness plan, and from the priorities and requirements established by federal initiatives on homelessness.

The Compassion Knoxville process gathered input from more than 500 individuals through 43 public meetings and online comments.

The plan focuses on preventing homelessness and helping those who have become homeless find stable, permanent housing, so that they can reconnect with and contribute back to the community. Implementation strategies emphasize collaboration and accountability for all partners in the effort, from homeless individuals to service agencies and local government.

The new plan is comprehensive, addressing the needs of not only the chronically homeless, but also other populations facing this issue, including military veterans, families with children, the elderly and others. The plan challenges the Knoxville community not only to meet immediate needs, but also to focus on long-term solutions that solve difficult problems, rather than just react to them.

Implementation of the plan will be coordinated by the Office on Homelessness, a part of the City of Knoxville's Department of Community Development.

The framework of the plan is also structured to provide ongoing feedback and input to the Office on Homelessness, so that the plan may be continuously updated as objectives are achieved and new challenges arise.

6. When Disaster Strikes Is No Time to Plan for It

If your neighborhood was to have a mass evacuation due to a hazardous chemical spill or your home caught on fire during the night, would you know how you would respond?

It takes time to decide your response actions to a disaster, and that decision time could mean the difference in your family's ability to overcome the disaster.

"Thinking through, in advance, how one's family would respond to certain emergency situations saves lives," remarks John Jarrard, a Disaster Services Volunteer for the local Red Cross.

The concept of being mentally prepared applies similarly to how we prepare for hazardous road situations. A good driver has planned in their head what they would do if their car was to start into a skid due to icy conditions. This mental preparedness creates an automatic response in case of the event. The automatic response may not be executed perfectly, but it saves crucial seconds in action execution and avoids panic.

The same concept applies to your home disaster preparedness. Multiple studies have shown that families which have thought through their immediate emergency responses will have more success in overcoming the disaster. Do not wait until disaster strikes your home to take action. Be mentally prepared and plan your actions.

This preparedness tip was brought to you in part by the [Red Cross of the Tennessee Mountain Valley](#).

For more information about the City of Knoxville's Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Program or to inquire about the Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Speaker Series, contact Natalie D. Crone at NCrone@cityofknoxville.org or 215-3456.

7. Neighborhoods: Keep Up with Building Permit Appeals

If your neighborhood cares about how close a building can be to the street or a neighboring property (known as setback requirements), commercial signage, parking lots, required parking spaces for nearby businesses, and related issues, then you may wish to pay close attention to 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.

Just in the last two months, BZA has heard appeals involving setback requirements for garages in the Fourth & Gill and Sequoyah Hills neighborhoods, parking lot requirements for a new multi-unit development planned near Island Home Park neighborhood, sign size on Clinton Highway, and a reduction in parking spaces from 193 to zero for a possible brewery in the Old City.

Not all of these items involved residential neighborhoods, but the list hints at the scope of issues considered by BZA. Neighborhoods can keep up with the BZA agenda in three ways.

First, watch for the black and white signs indicating that there is a pending decision on a particular piece of property. Most signs are for Metropolitan Planning Commission issues, but signs with the word "variance" are BZA items.

Second, the BZA agenda is posted at <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/zoning.asp> on the Monday prior to the BZA meeting each month.

Third, if your neighborhood organization would like to receive an electronic copy of the BZA agenda each month, send an email to the city zoning inspector, Scott Elder, at selder@cityofknoxville.org. Please put "Mailing List" in the subject line. Those without Internet access can ask to be placed on the "hard copy" mailing list by calling Tina Belge in the Office of Neighborhoods at 215-3077.

A neighborhood group that keeps track of BZA will 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 concerns or objections. Decisions of the BZA can be appealed within 15 days of the BZA decision to City Council. Appeals of a City Council decision are made to Chancery Court within 60 days of a City Council decision related to BZA.

8. 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/>.

Also see: Community Events Calendar: <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/events/events.pdf>

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, January 6 --- 5 p.m.

Knox County Board of Education – Work Session
(Monday before the regular meeting and the third Mondays, except holidays or holiday weeks)
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, January 6 --- 7 p.m.

Cedar Heights Residents Association (first Mondays)
5316 Cedar Heights Road
Jabrahamson2012@gmail.com or 765-1047

Tuesday, January 7 --- 11:45 a.m.

Agenda Review, Metropolitan Planning Commission
(Tuesday before MPC’s monthly meeting)
Small Assembly Room, City County Building

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

Dandridge Avenue Neighborhood Watch (First Tuesdays)
Beck Cultural Exchange Center, 1927 Dandridge Ave.
Lawrence Washington, 524-4498

Tuesday, January 7 --- 6:30 p.m.

Parkridge Community Organization (First Tuesdays)
Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine St.
Jerry Caldwell, 329-9943

Tuesday, January 7 --- 7 p.m.

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

Tuesday, January 7 --- 7 p.m.

City Council (Every Other Tuesday)
<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil>
Agenda: <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/agenda.pdf>

Wednesday, January 8 --- 1 p.m.

100 Block Association (Second Wednesdays)
Dewhirst Properties, 123 S. Gay Street

Jody Freeman, 525-1554

Wednesday, January 8 --- 11:30 a.m.

Community Forum (Second Wednesdays)
West Knoxville Library, 100 Golf Club Road at Kingston Pike
Sue Mauer, 690-0269

Wednesday, January 8 --- 4:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Advisory Council
(Every Second Wednesday, except December)
Venue to be determined
<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/neighborhoods>
David Massey, 215-3232

Wednesday, January 8 --- 5 p.m.

Knox County Board of Education (First Wednesdays, except holiday weeks)
Large Assembly Room, City County Building
For agenda, work sessions, and other items:
Visit <http://knoxschools.org/>. Click on "Board of Education"

Thursday, January 9 --- 1:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, January 9 --- 6 p.m.

Lonsdale Homes Resident Association (Second Thursdays)
Community Building, 1956 Goins Drive
Phyllis Patrick, 323-7224

Thursday, January 9 --- 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Greenwood Heights Neighborhood Watch (Second Thursdays)
Corner of Buttercup Circle and Sundrop Drive
Alice Wershing at awershing@aol.com

Friday, January 10 --- 6 p.m.

Beaumont Community Organization (Second Fridays)
Community Room, Solid Waste Transfer Station, 1033 Elm Street
Natasha Murphy, 936-0139

Friday, January 10 --- 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

Saturday, January 11--- 6 p.m.

Burlington Homeowners & Residents Association
Burlington Library, Asheville Highway
Kimberley Fowler, ccfp@comcast.net, 524-7094

Monday, January 13 --- 7 p.m.

Town Hall East
(Second Mondays in September, November, January, March and May)

Fellowship Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 409 Asheville Highway
Mac Goodwin, 524-9954

Monday, January 13 --- 7 p.m.

Belle Morris Community Action Group (Second Mondays)
City View Baptist Church, 2311 Fine Avenue
www.bellemorris.com
Rick Wilen, 524-5008

Monday, January 13 --- 3 p.m.

Northgate Resident Association (Second Mondays)
Social Hall, 4301 Whittle Springs Road
David Wildsmith, 219-0417

Monday, January 13 --- 5-6 p.m.

Michael Meadowview Neighborhood Watch (Second Mondays)
CAC East Neighborhood Center, 4200 Asheville Hwy.
Marian Bailey, 525-5625

Monday, January 13 --- 6 p.m.

Cold Springs Neighborhood Watch (Second Mondays)
Magnolia Avenue Methodist Church, 2700 Magnolia (Harrison St. Entrance)
Terrell Patrick, 525-4833

Monday, January 13 --- 6 p.m.

Lyons View Community Club (Second Mondays)
Lyons View Community Center, 114 Sprankle Avenue
Mary Brewster, 454-2390

Monday, January 13 --- 6 p.m.

Vestal Community Organization (Second Mondays)
South Knoxville Community Center, 522 Old Maryville Pike
Newman Seay, 577-4593

Monday, January 13 --- 6:30 p.m.

Community Potluck
Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization (Second Mondays)
Central United Methodist Church, 210 Third Avenue
Judith Neff, 567-7980

Saturday, March 8 --- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Neighborhood Networking Luncheon
For All City Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Organizations
Office of Neighborhoods
David Massey, 25-3232, dmassey@cityofknoxville.org

*** This Advisory is produced on most Fridays of the year.*

*** Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*

*** 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.*