

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 39 – Tuesday, October 25, 2016

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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. Edgewood Park, West Hills Elect Officers

Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association and West Hills Community Association elected officers recently.

Pete Pallesen will continue as president of Edgewood Park for a two-year term, and Michael Duerr and Julie Taylor were reelected vice president and secretary. Carly Baskette was elected treasurer, also for a one-year term. She replaces Carol Zimmerman, who stepped down from that role after many years of service.

In West Hills, Reuben Pelot was named interim president, replacing Ashley Williams who resigned after moving into the county. Cindy Johnson was elected secretary, replacing Barbara Pelot. Reelected were Chuck Anderton (vice president, programs), Allen Douglass (vice president, parks), and Clara Hardin (treasurer).

2. KPD Offers Tips for a Safe Halloween

Courtesy of the Knoxville Police Department, here are some tips to make sure Halloween goes well for you and your children.

*** Make sure your children wear a costume that fits (so they don't trip over it), and that they can see and hear well. If possible, wear face paint instead of a mask.

- *** Choose a costume that is light in color or put “glow in the dark” patches on it so you children are easily seen.
- *** Try to trick-or-treat when it is still light outside. Carry a flashlight in case of delay.
- *** Stay within your neighborhood and visit homes you know or attend a church organized event instead of going door-to-door.
- *** An adult or older sibling should accompany younger children.
- *** Instruct your children not to go into homes or apartments.
- *** Use sidewalks, where possible, and obey traffic signals. Avoid walking in the street.
- *** Establish rules for children to follow and review them before the children are allowed to trick-or-treat.
- *** Advise children to accept only sealed treats, and not to eat any treats until you examine them at home.
- *** If you discover that your child has received treats that have been tampered with, try to determine where they came from. Report the incident to police.

3. Vote Daily for Beaumont Magnet Academy

There are just seven days left to cast your votes. Beaumont Magnet Academy (BMA) has been chosen as one of 15 finalists for the \$100,000 “Dream Big Teacher Grant,” and the school needs your vote to bring the Farmers Insurance grant home.

If funded, BMA would create several arts-themed areas on the existing BMA playground. The new playground features would be available for both school and community use.

Vote daily online through October 31 to choose Beaumont as one of six \$100,000 winners. To vote, visit www.votebma.com. Click on ‘Vote Now’, click on ‘Dream Big Finalist, Sheryl Burchett, Knoxville, TN’. It will ask several questions including your email address, and then hit ‘Submit’. You will receive an email. To complete your vote and have it count, you must click the link provided in the email.

4. March on Saturday to Show Unity in Community

Knoxville residents are being asked to participate in a march this Saturday, Oct. 29, if they wish to show support for efforts to bridge the gaps between police and the community, and continue mutual efforts to avoid violence and injustice.

The “We Are Stronger as a Team Unity March” will begin at 10 a.m. at Eternal Life Harvest Center, 2410 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.; pick up additional marchers at Vine Middle School; and end at the Knoxville Police Department, 800 Howard Baker Jr. Blvd. Refreshments will be served at the end of the march.

Police officers will accompany community members on the march, and Chief David Rausch will also participate. “This is a show of unity and understanding that in Knoxville the community and the police are working together to avoid the incidents that we have seen in other areas on the national news,” Chief Rausch said.

The purpose of this march is to highlight the good work being done in our community, according to one of the organizers, Lawrence Williams of World United Ministries.

"We want to see what we can do to try to educate those in the community who have not yet engaged in connecting with our police department," Williams said. "We want to continue building these relationships."

Participants will be urged to "get to know one another and continue to bring unity and peace throughout the community," Williams stated.

Williams and a host of adult volunteers were instrumental last summer in creating a Safe Haven program that offered basketball games and taught life skills to young men and boys, particularly in the African American community. The youth played two hard-fought games against Knoxville police officers. Several officers praised the program for the positive impact it had on police-community relations.

In addition to World United Ministries, two other community-based organizations are also hosting the march. M.Y.A. (Making You Aware) is devoted to raising awareness about sickle cell and other diseases. The organization EyeSheWe focuses on female reproductive rights. Both groups also work on social justice issues.

For more information on the march, contact Lawrence Williams at 415-8808.

5. 'Conversations on Race' Series Scheduled

A two-part seminar on race relations --- "Conversations on Race: Building Authentic Relationships" --- will be held on two consecutive Sundays in November at Church Street United Methodist Church, 900 Henley St.

The two sessions will be held on Sunday, Nov. 6, and Sunday, Nov. 13, in the church's Parish Hall, starting at 5:45 p.m. and ending at 7 p.m. On Nov. 6, the keynote speaker will be the Rev. Michelle Ledder, who is Director of Programs Ministry for the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Religion and Race, Washington, D.C.

This will be followed by a panel discussion on Nov. 13 with Avice Reid, senior director of community relations, City of Knoxville; Andre Canty, Highlander Research and Education Center; and Rev. Janet Wolf, director of Children's Defense Fund Haley Farm and Nonviolent Organizing. For more, contact the church at 524-3048.

6. Schedule a Speaker about Changes to Garbage Pickup

Big changes are in store for the way garbage is collected by the city's waste hauler, Waste Connections, starting with delivery of new city-owned garbage carts during the month of December.

To keep your neighbors informed, consider asking a representative of the City's Solid Waste Department to speak for 5-10 minutes at your next meeting. Just contact Solid Waste Manager Rachel Butzler at rbutzler@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2053.

7. Looking Ahead to March 11: The Neighborhood Conference

It is not too early to begin thinking about your neighborhood's participation in **The Neighborhood Conference** on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Door Prizes: This conference is known for its great door prizes. Would your business or neighborhood organization like to donate a prize to this conference? Consider helping the Office of Neighborhoods by soliciting at least one door prize. Call Wyatt Pless at 215-3456 for ideas and details.

Good Neighbor of the Year: The Office of Neighborhoods will soon be taking nominations for the [Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award](#). Be thinking about a neighbor whom you might nominate. The award --- made by the Neighborhood Advisory Council --- goes to a City of Knoxville resident who -- in the spirit of cooperation and with commitment to inclusive community -- has devoted time and talent in service to his or her neighbors and neighborhood.

Neighborhood Tee Shirts: A prize will be awarded to the neighborhood with the best tee shirt. Shirts will be judged on creativity and effectiveness in communicating neighborliness and/ or neighborhood pride. If your neighborhood needs help coming up with a design and working with a tee shirt vendor, contact Debbie Sharp, 215-4382 at the Office of Neighborhoods.

Photographs: Take plenty of photos at your neighborhood events. From Dec. 1 through January 31, we will ask for digital photos showing your group's events and activities. These will be displayed on a large screen during the conference.

8. After City Intervention, South High Gets Lease on Life

The City of Knoxville's long-term plan to save and restore South High School took a giant step forward last Friday when Mayor Madeline Rogero announced the proposed sale of the East Moody Avenue property to Dover Development, which plans on transforming the dilapidated structure to a senior living facility.

Designed by noted architect Charles Barber, the school opened as South Knoxville Junior High in 1937, and served as both a Junior High and a High School during the ensuing decades. It has been vacant since 1991.

Knox County sold the property at auction in 2008 to a private developer, but the building continued to sit empty and deteriorate. The City took a variety of actions to preserve and finally acquire the property. For the timeline details, see our [July 19, 2016](#) issue.

The City issued a Request for Proposals for the building back in July, and Dover Development was the sole respondent. City officials have negotiated a proposed deal with Dover that will go to City Council for approval at the Council meeting tonight (Oct. 25). For background on the resolution before Council, see this [Council agenda document](#) and attachments.

9. Quarry Lake Meeting Draws a Crowd

A large and enthusiastic crowd of some 200 people showed up Monday, Oct. 17, to the public meeting for Phase 1 of a Fort Dickerson Park project that will include quarry lake access improvements.

Held in the historic Kern's Bakery Building on Chapman Highway, the meeting was hosted by the City of Knoxville, Aslan Foundation, Sanders Pace Architecture with PORT Urbanism, and Legacy Parks Foundation.

A total of \$160,000 has been slated for Phase 1 of the project, which will add a public drive and parking lot to the quarry lake from the park's Blount Avenue entrance. City officials needed public input on desired quarry lake recreation opportunities (which will come in Phase 2) in order to determine how to provide access to the lake in Phase 1.

Suggested recreation options for the quarry lake mentioned at Monday's meeting included swimming/floating, boat rentals, increased access points to the water, and areas for birdwatching, among others. Other suggestions from the public included restrooms, increased patrols, food vendors, and safety improvements.

The City will continue to accept input for the quarry lake at Fort Dickerson Park until November 1, 2016. Suggestions may be submitted via e-mail at kprd@knoxvilletn.gov or public input cards available at the South Knoxville Community Center, located at 522 Maryville Pike. For more, call 311 or visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation.

10. Are These Blighted Properties in Your Neighborhood?

Nineteen properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. Friday, October 28.

The Public Officer --- Senior Director of Public Works David Brace --- will hear testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. Testimony can also be made by the property owners, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders, such as lien holders.

The Public Officer then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Failure by the owner to cure the problem may result in the boarding or demolition of a structure, or the cleanup of a dirty or overgrown lot, with costs billed to the owner. A property owner may appeal the Public Officer's decision to the Better Building Board and, ultimately, to Chancery Court.

The properties to be heard for repair/demolition orders are: 931 North Central Street (a.k.a 929 North Central Street, a commercial property), 211 Connex Street, 1309 Fairfax Avenue, 1931 Massachusetts Avenue (including accessory structure), 1537 Mississippi Avenue, 2149 Mississippi Avenue, 2427 Morton Lane (including deck), 914 Richards Street (all structures), 4408 Schubert Road, 750 Stone Street (accessory structures only, commercial property), 5506 East Sunset Road, 2204 Vermont Avenue, and 1017 Yellowstone Road.

In addition, there will be a hearing for confirmation of emergency repair orders on 1501 Clinch Avenue (all units), 1933 Fenwood Drive, 2506 Harvey Street, 929 Tennessee Avenue, 3106 Woodbine Avenue, and 1720 Worth Street.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, you or a representative of your organization may wish to attend the meeting to submit testimony about the impact of the property on the neighborhood. The full October 28 agenda, with details on each property, can be found [here](#).

11. Knoxville Selected to be a ‘What Works’ City

Knoxville has been selected as one of 16 new cities to participate in Bloomberg Philanthropies’ [What Works Cities](#) initiative – one of the largest-ever philanthropic efforts to enhance the use of data and evidence in the public sector.

Knoxville will receive technical assistance from world-class experts to build capacity to address two local projects:

*** Develop an open data policy and online open data portal, with the assistance of the [Sunlight Foundation](#), a nonprofit organization that advocates for open government;

*** Work with the [Center for Government Excellence](#) at Johns Hopkins University to track and share progress toward blight abatement in neighborhoods and commercial districts across the City.

For details and background, see [this city press release](#).

12. Mobility Plan Update Moves Forward

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) has received and published public comments on its four-year update to the Mobility Plan, which prioritizes federal investment in the region’s transportation system over the next 23 years, and identifies all anticipated projects during that time.

To see the comments, the updated list of transportation projects, and other details, see [this Mobility Plan](#) page.

The next step in this process is for TPO staff to present the project list for official endorsement at both the TPO Technical Committee meeting on November 8, and the Executive Board meeting on November 23. The draft Mobility Plan will be posted online for public comment shortly after the approval of the project list.

13. On Sunday, MPC to Present East Knox Community Plan

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) is inviting the public to the East Knox County Community Plan Presentation on Sunday, October 30, from 1:30-3:00 p.m., at the event will be held at Seven Islands State Birding Park’s Boat Launching Ramp, 2809 Kelly Ln., Kodak, TN.

Residents, landowners, community representatives, business owners, and county officials are encouraged to attend. Participants can learn about the Plan, respond to the recommended actions, and share how they can help with Plan implementation. Please RSVP to [Liz Albertson](#). For more, see [this MPC web page](#).

[14. 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 or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

Other Calendars

Here are several 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)
- [Birdhouse Community Center](#)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)
- [Knoxville Mercury](#) (weekly community paper)

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>*

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