



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 7 – Tuesday, February 14, 2017

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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. Kelle Jolly to Provide Conference Entertainment

Knoxville Jazz and Blues Singer Kelle Jolly will provide a unique form of entertainment for those attending this year's Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, March 11.

Jolly is calling on middle and high school students across the city to participate in a pre-conference songwriting workshop where they will learn some history of the blues and how blues tunes and lyrics are structured. She will help them compose and sing their own blues songs. The youth, with Jolly backing them up, will perform at the annual Awards & Networking Luncheon at the conference.

The workshop will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the City of Knoxville's [Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center](#), 1127 North Broadway. The fee is \$10 to participate. To sign up, call the Center at 523-1401.

Jolly, the host of [Jazz Jam on WUOT](#) 91.9 FM on Friday evenings, is also the founder of the [Women in Jazz Jam Festival](#), which will occur the same weekend as the conference.

2. Registration Continues

One week down --- three to go.

Over 165 people have now registered to attend **The Neighborhood Conference** on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Knoxville Convention Center. Early registration ends at noon Tuesday, March 7. You can register on site on March 11, but you will not be guaranteed the free continental breakfast, free lunch, or printed name tag.

To register, start at www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods and click through to the conference gateway page. From there, you can locate the [Workshop Descriptions](#) which you may wish to read before landing on the [Eventbrite registration page](#).

Anyone without access to the Internet may call Inas Al-Sarmad at 215-2113 to register by phone or to request a hard copy of the program and the registration form in the mail.

There is no charge to participate. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for a free continental breakfast sponsored by [Home Federal Bank](#). An opening general session will feature welcoming messages from Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero and Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett.

*** The free lunch is sponsored by [Waste Connections](#) and [Hatcher-Hill Properties](#). See the other sponsors [here](#).

*** At the luncheon, Mayor Rogero will announce the winner of the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year award from among [these eight nominees](#).

*** Twenty workshops address crime prevention, HOA legal issues, blight, neighborhood revitalization, animal control, ways to save on your KUB bill, how to help neighbors in need, neighborhood events and projects, and much more!

*** Two additional workshops are designed especially for young people interested in learning how to work with city government to get things done in their neighborhoods.

3. Not Your Average Conference

The Neighborhood Conference coming up on March 11 is a unique event not only because it is informative and inspiring, but also because it is loads of fun. Seriously.

*** Gather your neighbors and head to the **Photo Booth**, where you can use boas, crazy hats and other props to assume the persona of your choice and take a picture for your Facebook page or photo album.

*** Enter the **Neighborhood Tee Shirt Contest** and compete to win a gift that can be used as a door prize at your next neighborhood meeting. Tee shirts can be submitted in advance to the Office of Neighborhoods during the week of March 6; contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 to make arrangements. The deadline for submittal is 8 a.m. at the conference information desk on the day of the conference. A panel of judges will select

the first, second and third place winners who will be announced at the conference luncheon. [See the tee shirt contest rules.](#)

*** Enjoy a **free continental breakfast** and **free lunch** while meeting new people and picking up cool ideas from other neighborhoods.

*** **Tweets and Instagram posts** logged by conference staff will be tagged with #KnoxNeighbors. Attendees are invited to use this same tag when they tweet at the conference. In fact, you can start using #KnoxNeighbors to network and promote the conference.

*** Take in the **Neighborhood Photo Slide Show** depicting people, street scenes, and neighborhood activities from across the City. Make sure your neighborhood is represented. Send digital photos to Kirsten Fox at kfox@knoxvilletn.gov or call her at 215-3077.

*** After lunch, stick around for the drawing for [door prizes](#) --- lots of door prizes.

*** All of these features complement the 22 workshops, the 80+ information booths, and the presentation of the Good Neighbor of the Year Award that make up the rest of this event.

4. City Council Elections at the Conference

This year's City Council elections will play a role in the March 11 Neighborhood Conference at the Knoxville Convention Center.

Five of the nine seats on Knoxville City Council are up for grabs, as current members are term-limited and cannot seek reelection. This coming Friday, Feb. 17, is the first day candidates can pick up nominating petitions, and the qualifying deadline is May 18. See our [January 24 issue](#) for more details.

At the conference, neighborhood leaders will have a chance to meet declared candidates and potential candidates.

First, candidates and supporters can meet other voters in "Candidates' Corner," a section of the Cumberland Concourse where candidates can distribute literature and actively campaign. Booths for the [Knox County Election Commission](#) and the [Knoxville Knox County League of Women Voters](#) will also be located at this spot.

In addition, one of the 22 workshops will be devoted to the election. "How to Run for City Council" will be moderated by Rynn Dupes of the League of Women Voters. Panelists are Finbarr Saunders, a current at-large member of City Council; Cassandra McGee Stuart, one of the five members of the Election Commission; and Gary Drinnen, a well-known campaign consultant in local and state elections. For more on this and other workshops, see the [Workshop Descriptions](#).

Candidates are asked not to distribute campaign literature outside of Candidates' Corner.

5. Ride KAT Free to The Neighborhood Conference

Need a FREE ride to The Neighborhood Conference?

If you can get to a bus stop, you can ride to the conference for no charge. KAT buses will run a regular Saturday schedule on March 11. Just tell the driver you are going to the Neighborhood Conference at the Knoxville Convention Center, 701 Henley St., and you will ride for free.

Once you are at the Convention Center, stop by the KAT booth to get your free bus pass for the ride home. Be sure to stop by their booth before 12:15 p.m. when booths close.

Five bus routes go by the Convention Center --- No. 11 Kingston Pike, No. 17 Sutherland, No. 41 Chapman Highway, No. 42 UT/Fort Sanders Hospitals, and No. 45 Vestal.

If you ride a different bus, you can ride first to Knoxville Station. From there you can walk to the Convention Center, a distance of just over one half of a mile. Walk west on Church Avenue, turn left on Henley, right on Cumberland, and enter the building at that corner.

Or you can transfer to one of the buses above to get to the Convention Center. But be sure to check arrival and departure times! To help you plan your route, see the KAT website --- <http://www.katbus.com/ada/index.php> --- for routes and schedules. You can also use the handy Trip Planner on the KAT website: <http://katbus.com/trip-planner/>.

Or you can call a KAT Transit Agent at 637-3000. Give the agent your starting point, your destination, and when you wish to arrive. They will tell you which route, or routes, you will need to take, where you can wait to catch that route, and any other information you need, such as whether you'll need to transfer to another bus to get to your final destination.

The Blue Line Trolley runs just one block from the Convention Center, but on Saturdays it does not start rolling until 9 a.m. The conference gets underway at 7:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast, and the opening plenary is at 8:30, with the first array of workshops beginning at 9:30.

6. Carpooling and Parking

Here's an idea: As your neighborhood organization encourages your neighbors to attend the March 11 neighborhood conference, think about arranging carpools as well.

Include neighbors who might not otherwise feel comfortable driving or parking downtown. Drivers can drop off passengers at the Ballroom Circle on Cumberland Avenue.

Free parking will be available at

*** UT's 11th Street Garage across World's Fair Park from the Convention Center;
*** Locust Street garage across from the YMCA; and
*** the Supreme Court lot, which can be reached from either Locust or Henley and which is located just across Henley from the Convention Center.

There are plenty of other public parking locations downtown. [See the map.](#)

Unlike years past, the Poplar Street lot is not available to conference attendees this year. It is reserved for the boat show which is occurring the same weekend in the bottom of the Convention Center.

Questions may be directed to Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

7. City Posts Projects, Accomplishments in 2016

The City of Knoxville has posted its annual "Year in Review," detailing the hundreds of special projects; tens of thousands of calls to police, fire and public service; and countless numbers of routine tasks that make up the services provided by the City's nearly 1,600 employees to the citizens of Knoxville.

At the end of each year, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero asks department directors for a report that details that year's major accomplishments. Those reports from all City departments are then compiled and summarized into a single report.

At www.knoxvilletn.gov/yearinreview you can download the full 74-page 2016 report in PDF format, or choose to jump immediately to the departments you are most interested in. The sheer volume of activity is impressive and eye-opening: our tax dollars at work.

8. State Agency Offers Down Payment Assistance

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) is offering \$15,000 in down payment assistance to homebuyers who purchase a home in neighborhoods that were hard hit by the economic downturn and have been slower to recover.

By attracting homebuyers and stimulating home sales, the program is designed to protect the families already living in certain targeted neighborhoods from blight, falling property values, and risk of foreclosure.

"Our goal is to provide a shot in the arm to the neighborhoods and housing markets in Tennessee where the effects of the housing crisis have been most difficult to erase," said THDA Executive Director Ralph M. Perrey.

"This program will complement the City's existing programs to decrease blight, stabilize neighborhoods, and help more of our residents become homeowners," said Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, at an announcement event last week.

The qualifying ZIP codes in Knox County are 37721, 37871, 37912, 37914, 37917, 37921, and 37924. Knoxville neighborhoods located in these ZIP codes include but are not limited to North Knoxville, East Knoxville, Old North Knoxville, Edgewood Park,

Parkridge, Park City, Whittle Springs, Burlington, West Haven, Beaumont, Lonsdale, Mechanicsville, Norwood and Pleasant Ridge.

See more details in the [city press release](#). For additional information, visit THDA.org.

9. MPC to Host Open House for Edgewood-Park City Historic District

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) is hosting an open house to discuss the boundaries for the proposed expansion of the existing Edgewood-Park City Historic District H-1 Zoning Overlay in the Parkridge neighborhood.

The event --- set for 1-4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at the O'Connor Senior Center at 611 Winona Street --- follows a community meeting held on Jan. 19. [See this page](#) for a meeting summary and a video of the meeting.

“Because of high turnout at the previous meeting, the open house was scheduled to give community members another opportunity to provide feedback in a more casual environment,” MPC stated in announcing the open house. “Attendees will be able to fill out comment cards, pick up handouts, and view the presentation slides from the public meeting in January.”

Attendees can learn about the proposed historic district expansion boundaries, proposed design guideline updates, process for design review in historic districts, and process for applying for permits in historic districts.

These meetings were scheduled after Knoxville City Council requested that MPC conduct an inventory of properties within the Parkridge neighborhood in order to expand the existing Edgewood-Park City Historic District H-1 Zoning Overlay. A draft map of potential expanded district boundaries is available at knoxmpc.org.

If you have any questions, or cannot attend the open house and would like more information, you may email MPC staff at kaye.graybeal@knoxmpc.org or call [\(865\) 215-3795](tel:(865)215-3795).

MPC continues to gather information and input about the proposed expansion because it is still working under the City Council request. The proposed expansion, long sought by and requested by the Parkridge Community Organization, has generated some opposition within the neighborhood. [See this News Sentinel article](#).

10. Open Streets Set for May 21 on Magnolia

This community's fourth Open Streets event has been scheduled for 2-6 p.m. Sunday, May 21, on Magnolia Avenue between Randolph and Chestnut Streets, along with a small loop onto East Depot Avenue.

These streets will be closed to all motorized traffic, allowing revelers a day of playing, dancing, walking, skateboarding, jogging, biking, exercising, socializing, and shopping on foot or two wheels.

Open Streets Knoxville --- hosted by Bike Walk Knoxville with support from the City of Knoxville, Knoxville Regional TPO, Visit Knoxville and Knox County --- aims to promote physical activity and community interaction during this free community event.

An event that is celebrated across the world, Open Streets promotes healthy living, local businesses and sustainable transportation in cities.

For more, see [this city news release](#). Organizers are asking for sponsors and donations from members of the community to help make this next edition of Open Streets Knoxville a huge success. For more information on donating or sponsoring, go to www.openstreetsknoxville.com. For media inquiries, contact Bike Walk Knoxville President Dr. Caroline Cooley at bikewalkknox@gmail.com or event coordinator Lindsey Kimble at openstreetsknoxville@gmail.com.

11. 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 the City Law Department at 865-215-2050.

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>*

*** Don't have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*