



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 14 – Tuesday, April 11, 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. City Offices Closed Friday

City of Knoxville offices will be closed this coming Friday, April 14, in observance of the Good Friday holiday. Running on regular schedule, however, will be residential garbage and recycling pickup services, downtown trash and recycling runs, and the City's recycling centers. But the City's Solid Waste Management Facility, 1033 Elm Street, will be closed on Friday and Saturday. The Police and Fire Departments, of course, will be on duty --- as always.

2. Neighborhood Advocates Mourn Passing of Jim Bletner

Longtime neighborhood advocate and zoning watchdog Jim Bletner died last week just two days after attending and speaking at a public meeting on the proposed regulation of short-term rentals.

"We lost one of the good guys," lamented Dennis Owen, one of Bletner's neighbors in Sequoyah Hills. "Jim was patient enough with all of us to share his experience and knowledge. I learned a lot from him about community service, neighborhood advocacy,

volunteerism, doing the right thing for the community despite political ramifications --- and some good lessons in persistence.”

In the Kingston Pike Sequoyah Hills Association, Bletner was perhaps best known as the person who kept tabs on zoning matters, advocated the neighborhood’s position on proposed zoning changes, and worked closely with other neighborhood groups on major zoning issues.

For Jamie Rowe of Fountain City Town Hall, it was Bletner’s partnership with other groups that struck a chord. “What I remember most about Jim is that he was always willing to help, offer his expertise, attend meetings, rewrite ordinances, and discuss important issues facing neighborhoods.”

In addition to his own neighborhood organization, he was active in Bearden Council, Community Forum, and numerous ad hoc coalitions of neighborhood groups on one issue or another over a span of many years. He also served on KUB’s Tree Trim Policy Review Board several years ago.

For Larry Silverstein of West Hills, “nobody could have asked for a better or more supportive friend or ally in the trenches than Jim Bletner... Jim was a gentle soul and a true Southern Gentleman, but was filled with great passion and dedication to getting things done and making things better... Jim earned the respect of all those he dealt with, even those who disagreed with him from time to time.”

“Jim was kind, sincere and fearless,” noted former City Councilwoman Carlene Malone, also a leader in Fountain City Town Hall. “He dared to stand up to bullies when no one else would. I relied on Jim. There is so much that I will miss --- his valuable insights, his calming presence, his humor, and his impish grin and warm smile. Above all, I will miss the ‘inexpressible comfort’ of a true friend.”

For more detail on Jim Bletner’s life and those he leaves behind, see his [Facebook page](#) and [obituary](#).

3. MPC Director to Discuss Zoning Update

This is a call for neighborhood organizations to begin paying serious attention to the process, just now underway, that is expected to lead to a comprehensive update of the City’s zoning code.

Zoning has a direct and visible impact on the quality of life in residential neighborhoods.

You can put your toe in these waters by attending this week’s meeting of the Neighborhood Advisory Council at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at Cansler YMCA, located at 616 Jessamine Street. [See the map](#).

Gerald Green, executive director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), will explain the necessity for the zoning update, describe the issues at hand, outline the opportunities for public input, and cover the two-year timeline for the decision-making process. Crista Cuccaro of the City’s Law Department will also be on hand.

For those not familiar with MPC or zoning, spend some time on the [MPC website](#), and review [Gerald Green's presentation](#) at the Neighborhood Conference last month.

4. Parking, Self-Storage, Rezoning on Thursday's MPC Agenda

Proposed amendments to the City's parking ordinance are on the April agenda for the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), which meets at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13, in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Among other things, the amendments propose a significant reduction in the number of parking spaces required for commercial and office developments. Also on the agenda: a proposed amendment to allow climate-controlled, self-storage facilities to be added in the O-1 office zone, and the 2017 update to the One Year Plan.

Several rezonings and uses-on-review are also on the agenda for proposed developments, including ones on Broome Road, Central Avenue Pike, Deane Hill Drive, Emory Church Road, Jennings Avenue, Kingston Pike, Magnolia Avenue, Moss Grove Blvd., North Central Street, Pleasant Ridge Road, and Richmond Avenue.

See the [MPC agenda](#) for details on all of these agenda items.

5. Colonial Village to Hear About Wildlife Habitat

The **Colonial Village Neighborhood Association's** April meeting will focus, in part, on what it takes for a neighborhood to become a certified wildlife habitat.

Janice Tocher, past president of the South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, and Sophie Etienne, a member of the City of Knoxville's own city-wide wildlife certification team, are the featured speakers. South Woodlawn was the first neighborhood in the State of Tennessee to be certified as a wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

Colonial Village meets at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 13, in the fellowship hall of the South Knoxville Church of God, 5623 Magazine Road.

6. Workshop This Thursday: Leveraging Your Assets

What happens when a neighborhood organization puts all of its energy into trying to solve the neighborhood's problems --- instead of building on the neighborhood's assets?

This question will be explored at the next installment of "Building Strong Neighborhood Organizations," a monthly workshop series sponsored by the Office of Neighborhoods. Participants will also work on identifying assets and how they can be used to further a neighborhood group's mission.

The session will be held Thursday, April 13, at the City of Knoxville's new Public Works building, 3131 Morris Avenue at the corner of Morris and Lorraine Street. This is located south of Middlebrook Pike and east of Liberty Street. Park across Morris Street from the building and enter through the main entrance on the left side of the building. [Here is the Google Maps link.](#)

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The session begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m. Bring your own water. If you like, bring your own snack --- or snacks to share. If you will be attending for the first time, please RSVP to David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

7. Save April 23 for Fourth & Gill Tour of Homes

Historic Fourth & Gill's 27th Annual Tour of Homes will be held from 1-6 p.m. Sunday, April 23, with Central United Methodist Church (now celebrating its 90th year) once again serving as the starting point. For more, see [this web page](#).

8. West Haven Village Elects Officers

Matthew (Matt) Fields was recently elected president of **West Haven Village Neighborhood Community**, succeeding the group's first president, Vicky Forester, recipient of the 2017 Neighbor of the Year Award.

Forester remains active as the new treasurer. The other new officers are Vasant Marathe, vice president, and Vicky DeForrest, secretary.

Born and raised in Griffin, Ga., Fields served in the U.S. Navy from 1987 until 2007, when he took a job with a software development company in Knoxville. "My wife Tina and I moved to West Haven Village in 2009 so that our two daughters could attend West High school," Fields reported. "We love living in our quiet neighborhood."

Fields said he got involved in the neighborhood organization to meet more neighbors and only then discovered that "many of the neighbors shared my same interest --- a safe and beautiful neighborhood to live in and raise a family."

For the coming year, "we are planning on at least two neighborhood cookout events to encourage more residents to get out and meet more of the wonderful people who live around us," Fields said, adding that he hopes more neighbors will get involved in beautification efforts and safety concerns. For more, contact Fields at westhavenvillageneighborhood@gmail.com.

9. East Knoxville Community Cleanup Set for April 29

Five Points Up --- a coalition of community groups and residents in East Knoxville --- is hosting its fourth East Knoxville Community Clean-Up on Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. until noon. The event will kick off at Eternal Life Harvest Center Plaza, 2410 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

Cold Springs Neighborhood Watch, Michael Meadowview Neighborhood Watch, and Our Community Organization (OCO) are all active in Five Points Up.

The group is looking for individuals, other neighborhood groups, businesses and others to participate! Please register online [here](#). Contact Five Points Up at 546-5125, 215-5187, or sarah.bounse@knoxcounty.org with any questions.

“We look forward to seeing those who live, work, worship, or play in East Knoxville --- as well as anyone who just wants to lend a helping hand,” an announcement reads. “Participants of any age are welcome.”

Participants will meet at the Plaza to pick up supplies. Snacks and beverages will be available, as will the use of litter-pickers, gloves, garbage bags and safety vests. Participants will then disperse into their own neighborhoods or other community locations to pick up litter. Participants will then meet back at the Plaza for a free lunch between noon and 1 p.m.

10. CTV Offers Free Youth Video Workshops

Community Television of Knoxville (CTV) is offering 3-day summer movie-making workshops to teach youth how to plan, shoot, and edit short movies.

CTV will provide the workshop leader and all the necessary equipment. You only need to identify a representative to act as a neighborhood “guardian” and a small group of interested youth (three to six youth, grades 5 - 9).

Pre-scheduled workshops will last 3 days (Mon - Wed, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.). The location can be at a home or church in your neighborhood or at CTV. Whatever you decide, the neighborhood guardian will be responsible for location & transportation logistics. The guardian must also be present during each session.

There is no charge for the workshop, but the neighborhood organization may wish to consider providing lunch for the youth.

Only a limited number of workshops can be offered this summer, so it will be important to respond quickly to this announcement while openings are still available. Workshops will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call Kevin Jeske-Polyak at 215-4352 to discuss how CTV can customize this experience to fit your neighborhood.

11. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets Next Week

Eight properties are on the agenda for next week’s meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

BZA meets next Thursday, April 20. Addresses on the agenda include 565 Arrowhead Trail, 2038 N. Broadway; 3812 Boyds Bridge Pike; 3100, 3102 and 3102, Unit A, Forestdale Avenue; 3814 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue; 6522 Chapman Highway, 1007 Craigland Court, and 4612 Bob White Road.

The BZA agenda is posted on the city website. Browse to www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards and click on Board of Zoning Appeals. The agenda is posted no later than the Monday prior to the BZA meeting each month.

12. City Seeks Comments on Annual Action Plan

The City of Knoxville’s Community Development Department is seeking comments on its 2017-2018 Draft Annual Action Plan, which describes the proposed use of federal

funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the year beginning July 1, 2017.

Due to budget uncertainties in Washington, D.C., the level of funding can only be estimated at this time from the (Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs.

The City of Knoxville encourages comment on the draft plan, which can be found online at www.knoxvilletn.gov/development. The draft plan can also be viewed in person at the Community Development Department (5th floor, City-County Bldg., 400 Main Street) or the main office of CAC (Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee), 2247 Western Avenue. Or you can obtain a copy by calling 865-215-2180.

A public hearing on the draft plan will be held within the 30-day public comment period that began April 10. The date, time and location of this hearing will be announced in this newsletter, [this calendar](#), and [this web page](#). The City is hoping that the HUD allocations will be known by the time of the hearing.

Non-English speaking residents who need foreign language interpreters and materials translated in the appropriate language are asked to request accommodations at least ten days in advance.

Submit any comments via e-mail to Linda Rust at lrust@knoxvilletn.gov or in writing by mail or fax to Linda Rust, City of Knoxville, Community Development Department, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901, fax 865-215-2962. Or call 865-215-2357 for additional information. All comments must be received no later than May 9, 2017.

13. Make Sure the City Picks up Your Garbage

The City of Knoxville's new garbage collecting system --- involving the use of city-supplied garbage carts and saving some \$2 million annually over the life of a 17-year hauling contract with Waste Connections --- has now been in place since early January.

In the past few weeks, you may have received a sticker on your city-issued garbage cart reminding you of new garbage set-out practices.

For example, "garbage carts must be at the pickup location by 7 a.m." because Waste Connections starts pickups at that time. Place your cart after 7 a.m. and it may be missed.

Check out [these videos](#) to see the reasons to use a city-supplied cart, placed in the right way, lid closed --- with no garbage placed outside the cart, and no garbage placed in other containers.

So what happens if all of your garbage does not fit inside the cart and you place it at the street or alley anyway? Starting this week, garbage crews will empty your City of Knoxville garbage cart but leave the remainder of the garbage at the curb, including garbage placed in other types of containers. This garbage can then become a codes violation, which may lead to a notification from the City to clean up your overflow garbage.

Fortunately, there are several other city services to help residents manage and/or reduce trash volume. These include recycling, subscribing to additional pickup services from Waste Connections, using the City's Transfer Station, and taking advantage of the City's yard waste and bulky waste services. For details, call 311 or visit [the Solid Waste website](#).

14. EarthFest This Saturday at Botanical Gardens

Rain or shine, the 18th annual EarthFest will be held this Saturday, April 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, 2743 Wimpole Ave.

Participants in this zero-waste event can learn about sustainable living while enjoying environmental exhibits and attractions, an interactive educational scavenger hunt, and a youth area with free activities for kids of all ages.

For a list of the many onsite events and activities, parking information, scavenger hunt prizes and other information, visit www.knox-earthfest.org.

15. 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.*