



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 24 – Tuesday, June 27, 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. Save the Date: The Neighborhood Conference

Next year's citywide Neighborhood Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 24, 2018**, at the Knoxville Marriott on East Hill Avenue. The event, which will include the Awards & Networking Luncheon and information booths, will run from mid-morning until early afternoon. Please save the date!

2. Timbercrest to Display Patriotism

Holiday decorating contests are a great way for neighborhood organizations to dress up the neighborhood, involve more neighbors, and create a sense of community.

Case in point: The **Timbercrest Neighborhood Association** has announced its second annual Patriotic Mailbox Decorating Contest.

Each neighbor is encouraged to show off their red, white, and blue for Independence Day. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded. This year's event is sponsored by Bush's Beans. Rain or shine, judging will occur on July 2. See the [Timbercrest website](#) for details.

Last year, Timbercrest had 56 participating households with decorations that ran the gamut from a single American flag to an exuberance of stars, spangles, ribbons, streamers, pinwheels, flowers, street chalk art, flags, balloons, stuffed animals and declarations of freedom.

3. Community Garden Survey Closes This Week

The City of Knoxville is considering the possibility of allowing community gardens and other types of green spaces on city-owned parcels.

If you are interested, fill out [this short questionnaire](#) before the survey closes this coming Friday, June 30.

If your neighborhood organization or community group has a vision for a community garden or other type of green space on a City-owned parcel in your neighborhood, the Sustainability Office requests that you share your ideas via the survey. If there is enough interest, the City will create a pilot project to test best practices.

As part of the [Urban Agriculture Initiative](#), the Sustainability Office last year worked with other departments and City Council to change Knoxville's zoning ordinance to allow both community and market gardens on privately held land. Now the question is whether this initiative should be expanded to include little-used vacant lots owned by the City. Your input will help determine the feasibility of moving forward.

4. Speak Your Piece: Take the Recode Knoxville Survey

The City of Knoxville and the Metropolitan Planning Commission are inviting the public to participate in a Recode Knoxville survey about the City's zoning ordinance update.

The survey should take 5-10 minutes to complete and will remain open through July 7, 2017. It can be found at www.recodeknoxville.com/survey. It asks for preferences pertaining to neighborhoods, corridors, redevelopment, neighborhood commercial areas, design and landscaping, and sustainability. The results will be used to inform the project and will be shared after they have been reviewed.

“It’s critical that we receive feedback from the community throughout every phase of this project,” noted Gerald Green, executive director of MPC. “The preferences of residents, property owners, and business owners must be known in order for Recode Knoxville to appropriately shape the city and enhance our sense of place for the next 20-40 years.”

Knoxville’s zoning ordinance hasn’t undergone a thorough review in nearly 60 years. Knox County is projected to add 170,000 residents by 2040, and this update of the City’s zoning ordinance will help prepare the community for that growth by striking a balance between protecting historic characteristics of neighborhoods and creating standards that encourage dynamic growth. It will encourage investment, protect valued community assets, and encourage connectivity among people and places.

The next scheduled Recode Knoxville meeting will be the Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting at 10 a.m. on July 19 in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. This meeting is open to the public, and all those interested are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact Gerald Green at 865-215-3758 or gerald.green@knoxmpc.org. You can also find general information and sign up to receive updates on the project at www.recodeknoxville.org.

5. City Launches Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign

The City of Knoxville today launched [Go Vote! Knoxville](#) --- a nonpartisan initiative to encourage community engagement and increase voter turnout in this year’s City Council elections.

Terms end in December for five of the nine seats on City Council. The five incumbents are term-limited, so all of the seats are up for grabs. The Primary Election is set for Tuesday, August 29, and the General Election is Tuesday, November 7. Winners will take office in mid-December.

The stand-alone City Council elections have generated very little voter turn-out in recent election cycles, but the City is hoping to change that with a public meeting this summer in each of the six Council districts. Residents of all ages are invited to participate.

At each meeting, Mayor Madeline Rogero, current Council members, and neighborhood leaders will talk about the importance of getting to know the candidates and issues before voting in the Aug. 29 primary and Nov. 7 general election.

The City and local businesses will provide pizza and snacks, family-friendly games and activities. The Election Commission will provide voter information, register new voters and demonstrate how to cast a ballot using its voting machines. Candidates for office will be introduced, and voters will have opportunities to talk one-on-one with them.

Here are the meeting dates and locations. All meetings are scheduled from 5:30-7 p.m.

*** Monday, July 10 – 1st District
South Knoxville Community Center, 522 Maryville Pike

*** Monday, July 17 – 2nd District
Deane Hill Recreation Center, 7400 Deane Hill Drive

*** Thursday, July 20 – 4th District
Milton Roberts Recreation Center, 5900 Asheville Highway

*** Monday, July 24 – 3rd District
Cumberland Estates Recreation Center, 4529 Silverhill Drive

*** Tuesday, July 25 – 6th District
John T. O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona St.

Voters in the 5th Council District will not be able to vote in the Aug. 29 Primary --- incumbent Mark Campen is not up for reelection this year --- but they will be able to vote for candidates in other districts in the Nov. 7 General Election. Therefore, a “Go Vote” meeting for the 5th District is planned for Thursday, Sept. 7, at Christenberry Community Center, 931 Oglewood Ave.

The Go Vote! Knoxville campaign is managed by the City’s Communications Department, in partnership with the Knox County Election Commission and community leaders and sponsors. Additional information is available at www.GoVoteKnoxville.com.

6. Election and Candidate Information

Thirty candidates are in this year’s race for five open seats on Knoxville City Council --- four candidates each in Council Districts 1, 2 and 3; five in Council District 4; and 13 in Council District 6.

[See this document](#) on the Office of Neighborhoods website for a list of candidates along with links to their Facebook pages and websites. Candidate information is also available in other places. For example, WBIR is in the process of [conducting interviews](#) with all of the candidates.

Visit the [Election Commission website](#) to see if you are registered to vote, learn about registration deadlines, find out where to vote, check out dates for early voting, and view the sample ballot.

In the August 29 Primary, voters in each district vote for a candidate in that district. The top two vote getters in each district then run citywide in the Nov. 7 General Election.

7. City Council to Tackle Short-Term Rentals

Knoxville City Council will hold a workshop at 5:30 p.m. this Thursday, June 29, to discuss the City Administration’s proposed ordinance to allow and regulate short-term rentals of less than 30 days.

The ordinance has been in the making for about one year, and it is currently scheduled to be heard by City Council on first reading at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 18. See the latest version of the ordinance (April 25) on [this web page](#).

City neighborhood leaders are urged to attend and participate. At their workshops, City Council members normally hear a presentation on the topic at hand, ask questions, and then hear from those who wish to speak on the subject.

8. Meeting to Discuss Guidelines for Historic District in Parkridge

The staff of the Metropolitan Planning Commission this week will introduce proposed changes to the building guidelines governing the Edgewood-Park City Historic District in the Parkridge neighborhood --- guidelines that would apply to the proposed expansion area as well.

At the request of the **Parkridge Community Organization**, City Council last year asked MPC to investigate whether to expand the historic overlay district, within which property owners must abide by certain building and materials rules.

After considerable debate within the neighborhood about the expansion, and MPC's review of the housing stock in the expansion area, MPC is now moving on to the question of guidelines.

A meeting to discuss updated design guidelines will be held from 6-8 p.m. this Thursday, June 29, at Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street.

"This is an opportunity to share ideas and identify opportunities and concerns regarding the proposed design guidelines updates," states the MPC website. "These guidelines will apply to the he Edgewood-Park City Historic District and would apply to the proposed expansion area as well."

For more information about the expansion, including maps showing that the expansion would more than double the existing historic overlay district, [see this MPC web page](#).

[Here are the existing guidelines for the current district.](#)

[Here are the proposed new guidelines](#) that will be used for discussion and customization, according to MPC.

With input from the Historic Zoning Commission and MPC, City Council will ultimately decide whether to impose the overlay on the expansion area, but that vote has not yet been scheduled.

9. City, Pellissippi to Host Second Sons Summit

Registration is now open for Sons Summitt II, a day of speakers and workshops focused on creating opportunity and eliminating violence-related deaths among Knoxville's boys and young men of color.

Hosted by the City of Knoxville's Save our Sons initiative and Pellissippi State Community College, the Summit will be held from 1-6 p.m. Friday, June 30, at Pellissippi State's Magnolia Campus, 1610 E. Magnolia Ave.

Boys and young men of color between the ages of 14 and 24 are invited to register for this event on [this web page](#) or by calling Tatia M. Harris at 865-215-2831 or Kevin Perry at 865-215-2589. Admission is free, but registration is required. Lunch will be included.

The first 15 Sons to register for the Summit will receive free movie tickets from Regal Entertainment Group. At the event, door prizes will be given away, and attendees will be able to register for a chance to win an Apple iPad.

Speakers will include Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero; keynote speaker Chris Blue, winner of "The Voice," Season 12; Knoxville native and University of Tennessee football player Todd Kelly Jr.; criminal justice professional and motivational speaker Charles Brown; and former NFL running back and past Regional Director to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, LeRoy Thompson.

Workshop topics include: Success and Service; Engagement with Law Enforcement; and Setting Goals. For more, including photographs of previous Summits, visit the Save Our Son [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [Twitter feed](#).

10. Better Building Board to Consider Blighted Properties

Three properties are on the agenda for this week's Better Building Board ([BBB](#)) meeting at 3:30 p.m. this coming Thursday, June 29, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

The City's Community Development Department will ask the board for a certification of blight on 743 South Chestnut Street, 522 Fern Street, and 542 Tipton Avenue. Neighbors affected by these properties may wish to be present to testify on their impact on the neighborhood. [See a full copy of the BBB agenda](#), with details and owner information on each property.

Under the city's Chronic Problem Properties ordinance, a property first determined and then later certified by the BBB to be blighted is eligible for possible acquisition by the City, using its eminent domain powers, if the owner fails to take corrective action and if a purchase price cannot be negotiated. Blighted properties acquired by the city are listed for sale through Community Development's [Homemaker's Program](#).

11. Testify on Blighted Properties at Public Officer Hearing

Fourteen properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. this coming Friday, June 30.

The Public Officer --- David Brace, director of the Public Service Department --- 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: 2031 Boyd St., 127 East Caldwell Ave., 4807 Coster Rd., 2814 East Fifth Ave., 5810 Hillock Rd., 3933 Ivy Ave., 4948 and 4950 Martin Mill Pike, 5016 McIntyre Rd., 2401 Parkview Ave., 2008 Radiance Dr., 5817 Ridgewood Rd., and 906 Sevier Ave.

In addition, there will be a hearing for a confirmation of previously issued emergency repair/demolition orders on 4721 Silverhill Drive and 2942 Tecoma Drive.

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 June 30 agenda, with details on each property, can be found [here](#).

12. City to Convert Street Lights to LEDs

Knoxville City Council last week approved a contract to retrofit Knoxville's nearly 30,000 streetlights with light-emitting diodes (LEDs), setting the City on a path to save \$2 million a year while greatly reducing carbon emissions. [See the full press release](#).

Council approved a \$9,548,215 contract with Siemens to perform turn-key design and installation services for the new LED lights, beginning with an extensive design phase that includes test/demo installations of new lights for evaluation by the City and public stakeholders.

Once the design phase is complete, Siemens expects to begin installation of new lights across the city in late 2017 or early 2018. According to the contract terms, all work is expected to be complete by June 30, 2019.

"This project will help us improve the overall design of our lighting system," says Office of Sustainability Director Erin Gill. "Instead of illuminating the sky and trees with an orange glow, we can focus light where we need it: on streets and sidewalks. The clear, whiter color of LED light provides better visibility and color rendering than HPS bulbs, making it easier to see people and objects in the roadway."

Gill adds that the street light replacement project will follow guidelines and best practices outlined by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the International Dark Skies Alliance.

During the design phase, there will be multiple opportunities through public meetings and the demonstration installation for local residents and businesses to review and comment on the new proposed lighting. Additionally, project staff can be available to discuss the project and LED lighting plans with neighborhoods and other community

groups. As the streetlight project progresses, the City will post updates online at www.knoxvilletn.gov/LED.

13. Educate Yourself about Mosquitoes

Not all mosquitoes are the same: Different mosquitoes spread different viruses at different times of the day.

To protect yourself, your family, and your pets from mosquito bites, use insect repellent while outdoors, use screens on windows and doors, and eliminate standing water in and around your home.

Prevention is the key. The Knox County Health Department offers these examples of how to eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can breed:

- Turn over any water holding containers such as tires, cans, flower pots, or trash cans.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly and water doesn't pool in them.
- Change the water in birdbaths twice per week.
- Turn over wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Keep swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs clean and properly chlorinated.

For more information about mosquitoes, West Nile virus, and other mosquito-borne diseases, visit the Health Department's information-packed [Mosquito Monday web page](#). A new tip is added each Monday.

14. Information Fair Planned at Beck Center on July 8

Knoxville Community Step Up and the Beck Cultural Exchange Center are sponsoring a "Community Connection Information Resources" Fair from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, July 8, at the Beck Center, 1927 Dandridge Avenue.

Organizations that are slated to provide information resources include American Job Center, CAC, City of Knoxville (Save Our Sons and Office of Neighborhoods), East Tennessee Community Defense, Vet2Vet, Young Mighty Men of Valor.

All members of the community are invited to stop by and learn more about available resources. For more about the fair, contact Michael Goins at 865-441-3652.

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>*

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