

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 25 – Wednesday, July 5, 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. Two Days Left to 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, 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.

2. Solid Waste Manager to Speak at Blight Working Group

Rachel Butzler, the solid waste manager for the City of Knoxville, will discuss the city's garbage pickup, recycling, and other solid waste management programs at this month's meeting of the **Neighborhood Working Group on Blighted Property** (NWG).

The meeting begins at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, July 6, at the Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine St. The meeting ends at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Members of the group requested this topic following a large volunteer effort last spring, when they joined with other partners and residents in a clean-up event at a mobile home park on Sutherland Avenue. [See previous coverage on that event](#). NWG is now discussing ideas for its next neighborhood project involving some combination of cleanup, beautification, and place making.

NWG meets at Cansler YMCA on the first Thursday of each month to discuss issues and strategies for dealing with blighted property. Neighborhood representatives are encouraged to attend and participate. For more, contact David Massey at 215-3232 or Cheri Hollifield at 215-2867.

3. At NAC This Month: Legacy Parks and Short-Term Rentals

The Neighborhood Advisory Council ([NAC](#)) this month will learn about the work of the [Legacy Parks Foundation](#) and the City of Knoxville's proposed ordinance governing short-term rentals.

NAC will meet from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. next Wednesday, July 12, at the Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine St. All are welcome.

Carol Evans, executive director of Legacy Parks, will update the group about what is happening in the Urban Wilderness and about the nonprofit's future plans. Legacy Parks has been instrumental in identifying and acquiring properties for the Urban Wilderness.

In addition, City of Knoxville Communications Director Jesse Mayshark will address questions about the [proposed ordinance regulating short-term rentals](#) of less than 30 days. Knoxville City Council last week held a workshop on the ordinance, which is on City Council's agenda for first reading on July 18.

One key issue is whether or not the ordinance should apply to all residential zones. At the Council workshop, approximately eight individuals argued that the R1 and R1E single family residential zones should be exempted from the new ordinance. To learn more about the various residential zones in the City:

*** Visit [KGIS Maps](#) and zoom in to a neighborhood. Then click on “Maps” in the left-hand column, then on Planning and Zoning Maps, and then on Zoning. Zones are identified with a letter and number that correspond to the zoning code.

*** Read the uses allowed by right and with a use-on-review in various zones defined in the [Knoxville Code of Ordinances](#). In the left-hand navigation column, scroll past the Charter and, near the bottom, click on Appendix B – Zoning Regulations. Then go to Article IV (Specific District Regulations), then to Section 2 (Basic Districts), and then to Residential Districts.

NAC is a 15-member body of 15 volunteer neighborhood leaders who are appointed by the Mayor to provide advice and feedback to the Administration on neighborhood issues. For more, contact Debbie Sharp, at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382.

4. Apply Now for KPD’s Citizens’ Police Academy

The Knoxville Police Department is accepting applications for the Citizens’ Police Academy (CPA) this fall.

Classes will be held from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings starting on August 24 and ending with graduation on November 16. Among other benefits, CPA provides participants with a better understanding of how KPD is organized and how each unit functions.

To learn more about the program, and to download the application, [see this web page](#) or contact Officer Matthew Gentry at [mgentry@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:mgency@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-1303. If you intend to participate, please apply as soon as possible. A background check is required. Participants must be at least 18 years old and either live or work in Knoxville. There is no cost to participate.

5. DA’s Office Sets Dates for 2017 Citizens Academy

[District Attorney General Charme Allen](#) has set the dates for the 2017 DA’s Office Citizens Academy.

Classes will be held in the City County Building on seven consecutive Tuesdays from 6-8 p.m. starting on September 5 and ending with graduation on Oct. 17. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, live or work in Knox County, and undergo a background check, including a criminal history check. [Download the Application Form](#).

Completed applications may be emailed to jackie.myers@knoxcounty.org, faxed to 865-215-4253, or mailed to the District Attorney’s Office at 400 Main Street, Suite 168, Knoxville, Tennessee, 37902. The deadline to submit an application is July 31, 2017. Class size will be limited to 25 members.

Graduates will be able to take their newfound knowledge of the District Attorney’s Office and the criminal justice system into their neighborhoods to form stronger relationships between the DA’s Office and the community it serves.

In this course, participants will engage with prosecutors to discuss the role of the prosecutor in the criminal justice system, the opiate epidemic, gang prosecution, human

trafficking, and other emerging trends. Additionally, citizens will have the opportunity to take on the role of a District Attorney while prosecuting a mock case in the court system.

This program is the first of its kind in the State of Tennessee, and it offers citizens an opportunity to learn more about the District Attorney's Office and what it is like to represent the State and argue a criminal case as a prosecutor.

If you have any questions, please contact Community Affairs Coordinator Jackie Myers at 865-215-2515 or jackie.myers@knoxcounty.org.

6. July MPC Agenda Includes Neighborhood Issues

The [preliminary agenda](#) for the July meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) contains several items of interest to neighborhood organizations:

*** MPC staff is proposing an amendment to the Knoxville zoning ordinance to allow **residential uses in the C-3 General Commercial District** (with a use-on-review). C-3 is the zone that dominates the city's major corridors such as Kingston Pike and Chapman Highway.

Last year the MPC staff went to considerable length to draft and take public comment on a new Bearden Village mixed use zone that would have set out pedestrian friendly guidelines for a mix of commercial, office and residential uses --- even in the same building. Viewed as a template for other corridors, the proposed zone was sidetracked in part because of the impending (and now current) effort to rework the city's entire zoning code.

Adding residential as a use-on-review in a C-3 district is a temporary alternative and would allow the development of multi-family dwellings in this zone.

*** MPC staff is also proposing that MPC recommend to City Council that the zoning code be amended to establish limits on **the size of buildings that can be allowed in the C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District**.

This effort arises from a [May 23, 2017, decision by City Council](#) to allow a large Dollar General store within the C-1 District on a parcel on Boyd's Bridge Pike.

*** **Norwood Homeowners Association** is asking MPC to recommend that the One Year Plan and the Northwest City Sector Plan be amended to shift four properties on Murray Drive from medium density residential to low density residential, thus matching the current R-1 zoning of the four lots. [See the group's request](#), including maps and rationale.

The agenda also includes requested rezonings for 3307 Riverside Drive near Holston Drive and a parcel on Pratt Road in Inskip, as well as several "uses on review" for properties in the city, including a planned residential development on Forestdale Avenue in the Whittle Springs area.

Please Note: The above citations do not necessarily include all of the July agenda items that may impact residential neighborhoods. The [final July 13 agenda](#) will be published late this week. Neighborhood organizations should consider designating at least one if not two people to scour each month's MPC agenda for any items that may impact your

neighborhood. Go to the bottom of the home page at <http://www.knoxmpc.org/> to sign up for MPC's newsletter.

Another way to keep track of pending MPC cases in or near your neighborhood: Check out the KGIS "[MPC Case Mapping](#)" Application.

7. Connect Knox Seeks Community's Priorities

Connect Knox is a "new community-centered initiative" formed recently by [Leadership Knoxville](#) "to help mobilize, connect, and align our existing and emerging leaders."

Currently, we are in a research phase and trying to get a pulse on the priorities of our community members," reports Kristy Altman, the community director of Connect Knox. To that end, Connect Knox is asking residents to take [this short survey](#) of their attitudes toward the current state of affairs in the greater Knoxville area.

8. This Saturday: Lonsdale International Food & Crafts Festival

The Fourth Annual Lonsdale International Food and Crafts Festival will be held this Saturday, July 8, in conjunction with the monthly International Food and Crafts Market at Lonsdale Park, which is located next to Lonsdale Elementary School at 1317 Louisiana Avenue.

The festival will last from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Vendors will be selling foods (including BBQ) from around the world, hand-made soap, candles, jewelry, and other crafts. There will also be music and activities for children.

The sponsor, the Latino Task Force, is joining with Lonsdale Elementary to raise funds for the playground; used clothing will be available for \$5 per bag until all is gone.

The Latino Task Force hosts the International Food and Crafts Market on the second Saturday of each month, April through October, but the Festival happens just once a year, so make your way to Lonsdale this Saturday to try new foods, hear different kinds of music, have fun, and meet new friends.

9. Also on Saturday: Information Fair at Beck Center

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.

Approximately 20 organizations are slated to provide information resources at this fair. They include the Alliance House Community, American Job Center, CAC, City of Knoxville (Save Our Sons and Office of Neighborhoods), East Tennessee Community Defense, Knoxville Area Urban League, League of Women Voters, SEED, Vet2Vet, and Young Mighty Men of Valor. Information on child support, housing, and grief recovery will also be available.

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.

10. 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.*