



**Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 34 – Tuesday, September 12, 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. Last Call for Class on KGIS Maps**

A workshop on how to make full use of [www.kgis.org](http://www.kgis.org) will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at the City’s Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue.

KGIS --- the Knoxville, Knox County, KUB Geographical Information System --- operates the multi-layered website.

The class is free, but registration is required. If you plan to attend, please notify Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or leave your name and contact information at 215-2113. Wi-Fi is available. The first 15 participants to bring a laptop will be able to log on to the website during the workshop.

Using KGIS can answer lots of common questions --- such as who owns properties in the neighborhood, the correct school zones and political districts that cover your neighborhood, and whether anyone is seeking a rezoning or use-on-review.

In addition to picking up tips and understanding how to use various tools and applications, participants will learn how to navigate the newest KGIS app – the [Neighborhood Groups Viewer](#), which maps the boundaries of neighborhood groups in the city.

Staff from KGIS and the Office of Neighborhoods will conduct the workshop, which will end no later than 8 p.m.

## **2. Sign Up for “Fight the Blight” Workshop**

The City of Knoxville’s Neighborhood Codes Enforcement team, in cooperation with the Office of Neighborhoods and other city departments, is conducting a 5-session workshop focused on the challenges posed by blighted properties and how to address them.

The workshops will be held on five consecutive Thursday evenings, starting Oct. 5 and ending Nov. 2. The location is still to be determined. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. The sessions will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m.

To participate in this workshop, please fill out and submit [this one-page application](#). Or call Cheri Hollifield at 215-2867 for a hard copy to be mailed to you.

Anyone interested in learning more about blighted properties is urged to participate. This workshop will be especially useful to someone who is a member of an established or emerging neighborhood organization that is seeking to address blighted properties on a systematic basis.

Applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29.

At the workshop, participants will learn how and why properties become blighted, examine the nuts and bolts of city code enforcement, and hear about public and private efforts that address blight. They will share views and concerns about blight and the city’s response. The group will also discuss placemaking projects that can help counter the negative impacts of nearby blighted properties.

## **3. City Launches Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program**

The City of Knoxville has launched the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program.

The Application form can be downloaded from [www.knoxvilletn.gov/trafficsafety](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/trafficsafety). If you or your group needs a hard copy of the Application and related materials, please call 215-2113. State the purpose of your call, your name, postal mailing address, and phone number.

Questions should be directed to [traffic.calming@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:traffic.calming@knoxvilletn.gov), Steve King at 215-4993, or David Massey at 215-3232.

## **4. Meeting Wednesday: Parkridge Overlay Design Guidelines**

A community meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, at Cansler Family YMCA, 611 Winona St., where staff of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) will present the proposed revised design guidelines for the H-1 Zoning Overlay District in the Parkridge neighborhood.

Knox Heritage is hosting. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

The design guidelines --- for both the current district and the proposed expansion area -- are contingent upon approval of the expansion.

The guidelines were updated after a neighborhood workshop held on June 29, and then further revisions were proposed by stakeholders at the Historic Zoning Commission (HZC) meeting on August 17. Therefore, the HZC postponed their vote on a recommendation to adopt the revised design guidelines to their September 21 meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room at the City County Building.

HZC voted 6-1 at their August 17 meeting that the proposed expansion area for the Edgewood-Park City H-1 zoning overlay is historically significant and worthy of designation.

Due to the HZC's postponement of their vote on the design guidelines to September 21, MPC's review of the H-1 expansion and design guidelines proposal is postponed until the MPC October 12 meeting at 1:30 p.m. The revised design guidelines will not go into effect unless and until City Council approves them following the MPC review and recommendation.

## **5. Community Meeting to Cover RECODE KNOXVILLE**

Two public meetings next week will focus on the recently released Recode Knoxville Technical Report.

The technical report --- prepared by [Camiros](#), the consultant that is helping to guide the effort --- can be downloaded from <http://recodeknoxville.com>. The report reviews current regulations, identifies additional issues for community consideration, and introduces concepts and regulatory approaches that will set the tone for revisions in the new Code.

The public is invited to attend and participate in the second community-wide Recode Knoxville meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, at Central United Methodist Church, 201 East Third Avenue.

Also next week, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street.

## **6. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets Next Week**

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

Established by city ordinance, BZA hears appeals of denials of building permits by the city's Building Inspections Department. The board, consisting of five citizens appointed by the Mayor, meets at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

BZA meets next Thursday, Sept. 21. Addresses on the agenda are 524 Arrowhead Trail, 3812 Boyds Bridge Pike, 2209 N. Central Street, 3308 Forestdale Avenue, 913 Henley Street, 1010 E. Jackson Avenue, 3720 Middlebrook Pike, 7407 Middlebrook Pike, 3822 Sutherland Avenue, 341 Taliwa Drive, and 401 Taliwa Drive.

Keep up with how the BZA might impact your neighborhood. Watch for the lawn sign indicating that there is a pending decision on a particular piece of property. Most signs are for Metropolitan Planning Commission issues --- which are also important --- but signs with the word “variance” are BZA items.

The BZA agenda is posted on the city website. Browse to [www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards](http://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.

A neighborhood group that keeps track of BZA will call the Plans Review & Inspections Department at 215-3669 to request and study the paperwork on a particular appeal, decide whether to take a position on the appeal, and then attend the BZA meeting to voice the group’s support or objections. A group can also request a postponement to allow time to meet with the applicant.

Decisions of the BZA can be appealed within 15 days of the BZA decision to Knoxville City Council. Appeals of a City Council decision are made to Chancery Court within 60 days of a City Council decision related to BZA.

## **7. Waste Watch: Tree Companies Should Haul Away Limbs, Trunks**

The City of Knoxville has a robust program for picking up and mulching yard waste created by city residents themselves, but this service does NOT extend to professional tree trimming and tree cutting companies.

If a city property owner hires a tree company, that company is responsible for removing all debris --- leaves, limbs, trunks --- that they cut down. When you agree to a tree trimming or tree cutting service, make sure they know that you know they are responsible for cleanup and debris removal.

Reminder: Leaf collection season begins Nov. 1, when city trucks will be converted from brush to leaf pickup. So there are now six weeks left for residents to cut and place brush at the street.

[Review details and guidelines for the yard waste program.](#)

## **8. Bike Walk Knoxville Seeks Donations for Child Bike Safety**

[Bike Walk Knoxville](#) (BWK) is asking for donations to help match a two-year, \$13,000 grant for a “Kids Bicycle Safety Education Program.”

BWK is the local nonprofit group that promotes pedestrian and bicyclist safety. It also stages the Open Streets events that have been held around town.

The group applied for the grant last summer from the Siddiqi Foundation, which agreed to fund half the requested amount and challenged BWK to raise the other half --- \$6,500 each year for two years.

The program, "Kids Love Bikes," has three primary goals: 1) teach children bike safety, 2) increase the number of kids riding bikes, and 3) provide bike maintenance. BWK will provide the educational materials and contract with an instructor to teach bike safety and skills to kids selected by the Haslam and Vestal Boys and Girls Clubs, with bikes provided and maintained by [Dream Bikes](#) and [Kickstand Community Bike Shop](#).

Each child who successfully completes the program will receive a bike provided by Kickstand or Dream Bikes and a helmet provided by the Epilepsy Foundation.

BWK has set up a crowdfunding campaign through IOBY (In Our Back Yard) and asks Knoxvilleians to consider making a donation. To make a donation, visit <https://www.ioby.org/project/kids-love-bikes-campaign>.

### **9. Need Funding? Knoxville SOUP Calls for Proposals**

Knoxville SOUP is looking for community-focused projects throughout Knox County that could use some cash to get cooking.

The next SOUP micro-funding event will take place starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, at Kerbela Shriners of Knoxville, 315 Mimosa Ave. Deadline to enter a project is Thursday, Sept. 28.

SOUP is a grassroots organization that holds quarterly events at rotating locations to help raise money for projects that will benefit the community. Neighborhood and community groups, nonprofits, businesses and individuals are welcome to submit their projects for consideration.

Up to four projects are chosen to present at each event. Attendees listen to the proposals, then dine on a meal of soup and salad, discuss the projects and vote for their favorite.

The project with the most votes wins the take from the door. (A donation of \$5 per person is suggested for entry.) At the most recent SOUP, the South Knoxville Community Center and Montgomery Village Residents Association tied and split the pot of \$814. The SOUP application consists of four simple questions and is available at [www.knoxvillesoup.org](http://www.knoxvillesoup.org).

### **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](mailto: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)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)

### **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.*