



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 42 – Tuesday, November 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. About Next Week

This “almost weekly” Neighborhood Advisory newsletter will not be produced next week. The deadline for our next issue is 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27.

Happy Thanksgiving!

The City's general offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after. Residential garbage collection and recycling routes will not run on Thanksgiving Day, so Thursday and Friday routes will be delayed by one day to Friday and Saturday. The city transfer station on Elm Street will be closed for the four-day weekend. Downtown trash and recycling schedules will not be interrupted.

2. Mayor Urges Tabling of Overlay Expansion in Parkridge

Mayor Madeline Rogero is recommending that Knoxville City Council table the pending ordinance that would expand the Edgewood Park City Historic Overlay District inside the Parkridge neighborhood in East Knoxville.

She is also suggesting that Council table a companion ordinance --- a revision of the historic overlay guidelines for the Edgewood Park City District.

At its last meeting on Nov. 7, Council approved, on first reading, the expansion of the district and the revision of the guidelines by a vote of 6-3 and 7-2, respectively. The two measures are scheduled for a second reading on Nov. 21. If adopted, the ordinances would take effect soon afterward. If tabled, they could be added to a future agenda only with a majority vote of City Council and adequate public notice.

Here is the Mayor's full statement on the matter:

"I have spoken with Council members, and like me, many of them are uncomfortable with the continued level of distrust and disagreement among different factions in the Parkridge neighborhood on the value and benefits of the proposed H-1 expansion. As a result, I am recommending that Council members table the expansion of the Parkridge H-1 district and the revised district design guidelines at their next meeting on Nov. 21. The debate has raised a host of separate but related questions that need to be resolved through constructive community dialogue.

"Those questions are troubling enough that Councilman and former Mayor Daniel Brown, who represents the area and initially asked for the study of the expanded district, ended up voting against it. He supports giving time for further discussion, and that position is shared by Gwen McKenzie, who will become the district's new Council member next month.

"There is no question that preservation of existing houses and buildings is crucial to the character and identity of our older urban neighborhoods. My administration will continue to work to protect those valuable and often endangered structures. Unfortunately, the heated discussions around this proposed expansion, which would triple the size of the existing H-1 district in Parkridge, have amplified rather than allayed fears about the possible impact on low-income residents and property owners in the neighborhood.

"The proposal for the expanded historic district came initially from the Parkridge Community Organization to City Council, and then from Council to the Metropolitan Planning Commission. MPC worked earnestly on this over the past year, and its thorough research on the history and character of the neighborhood should serve as a foundation for further discussion of historic preservation options there. The hard work of neighbors on all sides of this issue can also help inform future dialogue.

"Going forward, City staff are ready to work with City Council and all neighborhood residents, businesses, and property owners to address the wide range of issues affecting Parkridge.

"For many years, the City has been investing in East Knoxville neighborhoods to support affordable housing and protect local housing stock. As we make major investments in infrastructure along the Magnolia Avenue corridor, it's even more important that we address issues of affordability and equity. There is great opportunity in this area, and by working together we can insure that improvements and investments are a benefit to all.

“We need to work together toward identifying a common vision and common goals. Historic preservation brings many benefits to a community, and it will remain an important priority in that conversation.

“For all of those reasons, I am asking Council members to vote to table both the expansion and the revised design guidelines.”

3. Voters Elect Five to City Council

The five new members of Knoxville City Council will be sworn into office at an 11 a.m. ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 16, in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Voters last week elected Stephanie Welch, District 1; Andrew Roberto, District 2; Seema Singh-Perez, District 3; Lauren Rider, District 4; and Gwen McKenzie, District 6. They will join District 5 Councilman Mark Campen and at-large Councilmen Finbarr Saunders, Marshall Stair, and George Wallace for their first Council meeting on Dec. 19.

For more detail, including election results, see the City’s [GoVote! Knoxville](#) website. See the [City Council website](#) for Council agendas, minutes, a link to the Code of Ordinances, and other information.

4. Task Force to Honor Broadway Businesses

The Broadway Corridor Task Force (BCTF) this month will host a Community Improvement Award press conference and recognize three area businesses for reinvestment efforts made in 2017.

Awards will be issued on Monday, Nov. 27, at a ceremony from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Nothing Too Fancy, 1134 N. Broadway. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Awardees were chosen from a list of nominations and a community survey.

The goal of the BCTF Community Improvement Award is to recognize reinvestment efforts made along the Broadway Corridor in the spirit of the Broadway Enhancement Plan, a collection of improvement ideas derived from community input with guidance from the East Tennessee Community Design Center.

The BCTF hopes to encourage continued collaborations between businesses and the community and to inspire future investments into the corridor, task members said.

The BCTF was established in 2014 to stimulate collaborative and constructive discussion among neighborhood and business representatives. Its focus area is the Broadway Corridor from Fifth Avenue to I-640.

The group comprises representatives from the North Knoxville Business and Professional Association, and from the six major neighborhoods on this section of Broadway --- Belle Morris, Edgewood Park, Fairmont Emoriland, Historic Fourth & Gill, Historic Old North Knoxville, and Oakwood Lincoln Park.

5. Mayor Appoints Seven to Neighborhood Advisory Council

Mayor Madeline Rogero has appointed seven neighborhood leaders to the [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#), which provides advice and input to the city administration on neighborhood-related issues and concerns.

Five of the seven appointees are new members, and two are returning for full three-year terms. NAC is composed of 15 members --- three at-large members and two members from each of the six City Council districts (thus ensuring geographical distribution across the city).

Here are the seats, the City Council districts, the expiration dates for the terms, and the incoming and outgoing members:

Seat 2-B (Second Council District): Term expires December 31, 2020

Jennifer Reynolds, founder and treasurer of Timbercrest Neighborhood Association, is appointed to a three-year term after serving one year on a fill-in appointment in this same seat.

Seat 4-A (Fourth Council District): Term expires December 31, 2018

Rob Glass, a member of Harrill Hills Neighborhood Watch, is appointed to fill the remaining year of the term that had been held by Jenny Wright, who moved out of state.

Seat 4-B (Fourth Council District): Term expires December 31, 2020

Matt McMillan, president of Adair Gardens Neighborhood Association, is appointed to a three-year term, succeeding Robbie Arrington, whose term has expired.

Seat 5-A (Fifth Council District): Term expires December 31, 2020

Ann White, an active member of Dalton Place Way Homeowners Association, is appointed to this seat for a second term.

Seat 5-B (Fifth Council District): Term expires December 31, 2018

Molly Conaway, past president of Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, is appointed to fill the remaining year of the term that had been held by William Hutton, who moved to Middle Tennessee.

Seat 6-A (Sixth Council District): Term expires December 31, 2020

Derek Tate, treasurer of Michael Meadowview Neighborhood Watch, is appointed to replace David Gillette, whose term has expired.

At-Large Seat C: Term expires December 31, 2020

Emma Ellis-Cosigua, an active participant in neighborhood projects, is appointed to a three-year term, succeeding Lola Alapo, whose term has expired.

“We greatly appreciate the willingness of these neighborhood advocates to work with others on city-wide neighborhood issues and concerns,” Mayor Rogero said. “NAC’s advice to my administration is invaluable to us. We also are grateful for the years of service by the five outgoing members --- Bill Hutton, David Gillette, Jenny Wright, Lola Alapo, and Robbie Arrington. We thank them for their dedication to Knoxville’s neighborhoods.”

6. City to Demonstrate New LED Lights This Week

“Light the Night” --- a kickoff of the City of Knoxville’s retrofit of street lights with LED bulbs --- will be held this week at the intersection of Olive Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

At this location, view a daytime installation of an LED at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, followed by a lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16.

The ceremony will be attended by Mayor Madeline Rogero, Former Mayor and 6th District City Council representative Daniel Brown, Office of Sustainability Director Erin Gill, Sustainability Project Manager Brian Blackmon, Siemens Contract Manager Clint Schuckel, local subcontractors, City officials, area residents and business owners.

As darkness falls on Thursday evening, Mayor Rogero will light up a corner of the City in a demonstration of the new LED streetlights to be installed during the design phase of the City’s retrofitting project. The Mayor will also announce additional pilot locations where light fixtures will be tested before they are replaced permanently.

Information about the project is available at www.knoxvilletn.gov/LED.

7. Melnik Named Solid Waste Manager

Patience Melnik, executive director of Keep Knoxville Beautiful for the past 2½ years, has been hired by the City of Knoxville to manage its Office of Solid Waste.

Melnik, who will start in her new role by early December, says managing City solid-waste services is, in many ways, a natural extension of the mission of Keep Knoxville Beautiful.

Continuing to divert higher volumes of garbage from landfills by increasing recycling is crucial, Melnik says. She welcomes the opportunity to continue the expansion of recycling and to further improve efficiencies and customer services with residential and downtown trash collection.

Melnik moved to Knoxville 10 years ago when her husband, John Kochendorfer, went to work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Oak Ridge. They fell in love with Knoxville immediately. They have two children, Abe, 13, and Jed, 7.

“Patience will bring a great deal of passion, energy and know-how to the job,” said Chad Weth, the City’s Public Service Director. “We’ve increased recycling to an all-time record level in Knoxville, and we’ve modernized trash collection, but we know we can raise the bar even higher.”

Melnik fills the vacancy created when Rachel Butzler was promoted to Deputy Director of the Public Service Department.

8. I Bike Knox Unveils New Bike Map

For all bike riders or interested bike riders, [I Bike Knox](#) has created a new bike map to help Knoxville residents and tourists ride safely, find and use bike facilities, and connect to Knoxville's thriving bike culture.

Find the new map [online](#), at local bike shops, and at the Visit Knoxville Visitor Center at 301 S Gay St.

For more information, including a list of map donors and sponsors, see [Bicycle Program News](#) on the website of I Bike Knox --- a program of the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

9. Norwood to Celebrate Community Thanksgiving

Members of the Norwood community will gather for a Community Thanksgiving Celebration from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Norwood Middle School.

The [Community Schools Initiative](#) at Norwood Elementary School and Northwest Middle School are sponsoring this event in partnership with [Knoxville Internationals Network](#) and other local groups.

Neighbors, school families, and friends are invited to bring a side dish or dessert that represents their family's culture and traditions. Lunch will be served from 11:30-1:00, followed by multicultural entertainment from 1-2:30 p.m. In addition to musical and dance performances, there will also be children's activities.

For more, contact Jordan Frye at ifrye@greatschoolspartnership.com or 689-1460 x 28216.

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 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>*

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