



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 09 – Wednesday, March 7, 2018

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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. West Hills Plans Easter Egg Hunt

The West Hills Community Association will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt at West Hills Park on Winston Road starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 31. All little children are welcome. In addition, its monthly executive committee meeting will take place on Monday, March 19, starting at 10 a.m.

2. Promote Your Neighborhood, Help Other Groups

Please use this newsletter to advertise your neighborhood organization's events, elections, accomplishments and programs. You will raise your profile with elected

officials, city department heads, and other neighborhoods. Moreover, your success stories can inspire other neighborhood groups.

To submit information for an article, contact David Massey at dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3232.

3. Two Weeks Left to Register for Neighborhood Conference

There are now just two weeks left to register for **The Neighborhood Conference** on Saturday, March 24, at the Knoxville Marriott.

Don't miss this FREE citywide neighborhood event of the year, with its Neighborhood Awards and Networking Luncheon, workshops, 80 information booths, door prizes, and lots of opportunities to meet others, like you, who are working to make their neighborhoods safer, more livable and more friendly.

The deadline for pre-conference registration is noon Tuesday, March 20. After that, you can still register when you arrive at the conference, but you cannot be guaranteed a free boxed lunch or access to the workshops.

[Learn more and register](#). Those without Internet access can register by calling Hannah Freeman at 215-3456.

Remember: everyone must register. This includes elected officials, booth vendors, speakers, and conference volunteers. When you register, we have the information we need to make your name tag and reserve a lunch ticket in your name.

4. Seven Nominated for Good Neighbor of the Year

Seven neighbors have been nominated for the [Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award](#) for 2018.

The nominees will be honored at the Neighborhood Awards and Networking Luncheon at the [2018 Neighborhood Conference](#) on Saturday, March 24. Mayor Madeline Rogero will present the award to the winner.

The award is presented annually to a City of Knoxville resident who -- in the spirit of cooperation and with commitment to inclusive community -- has devoted time and talent in service to his or her neighbors and neighborhood. Here are the nominees:

*** **Kirk Anderson** from Timbercrest Neighborhood Association was nominated by Mr. and Mrs. James Newbill.

*** **Helen Bachrach** from RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association was nominated by Kaye Bultemeier.

*** **Sylvia Cook**, nominated by Beth Bacon, is the founder of Eastport / Five Points Neighborhood Watch.

*** **Yarrish Cook** was nominated by the Mechanicsville Community Association.

*** **David Gillette**, also of Mechanicsville Community Association, was nominated by Clyde Anderson.

*** **Stuart Hall** from West Haven Village Neighborhood Community Association was nominated by Steven Disney.

*** **Paula Minhinnett** was nominated by Suzanne Matheny from Top of the Ridge Neighborhood Watch.

5. Information Galore at the Neighborhood Conference

American Job Center... Bridge Refugee Services.... East Tennessee Community Design Center.... Fire... Police... KEMA... KGIS... KUB... Great Schools Partnership... Metropolitan Drug Commission.... City and County Tax Offices and two dozen other governmental departments... Centro Hispano... CAC Office on Aging...

Where can you meet face-to-face with a wide variety of non-profits and governmental agencies, put names with faces, ask questions, be inspired, and get a ton of information for yourself and your neighborhood organization?

Three words: The Neighborhood Conference.

Over 70 non-profit groups and local governmental agencies will staff over 80 information booths for the 2018 conference, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 24.

[See the full list of booth vendors.](#)

Get to the conference at 8 a.m. and you will have a full two and a half hours to visit these booths and still participate in the welcoming ceremony, one of the workshops, and the free Neighborhood Awards and Networking Luncheon. See the [Conference Day Schedule](#). See article #3 above on registering for the conference **before the March 20 deadline**.

6. Door Prizes: Brew Tours, Martial Arts, River Dog, Tennessee Theatre...

There is a growing list of door prizes that have been donated to The Neighborhood Conference that will be held Saturday, March 24, at the Knoxville Marriott.

[Knox Brew Tours](#) has donated a gift certificate for two, worth \$98.

[Martial Arts Academy](#) is donating passes to ten free classes, plus merchandise, for a total value of \$300.

[River Dog Bakery](#) will provide a \$75 gift basket of assorted baked goods and dog accessories.

From [The Tennessee Theatre](#), you could win a \$99 gift bag filled with a drinking glass, a tee shirt, and Jack Neely's gorgeous, picture-filled and anecdote-heavy book "The Tennessee Theatre: An Entertainment Palace."

Other donors are [Native Maps](#) (colorful map of Knoxville neighborhoods) and [Dream Bikes](#).

A total of 21 businesses and nonprofits (including a neighborhood organization, Fountain City Town Hall) have now made donations to the conference, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Knoxville Marriott. The drawing for door prizes will occur at the very end of the conference, following the Neighborhood Awards and Networking Luncheon.

[See a list of donors so far](#). If your business, nonprofit or neighborhood organization would like to contribute a door prize, contact Johnathan Blevins at 215-2113 or jblevins@knoxvillent.gov.

7. First Tennessee Bank Joins List of Conference Sponsors

[First Tennessee Bank](#) has become the fifth bronze sponsor of **The Neighborhood Conference**, to be held Saturday, March 24, at the Knoxville Marriott.

This now makes for a total of 11 sponsors who are contributing a total of \$13,500 to this event or more than half of the cost.

Others are Platinum Sponsors [Hatcher-Hill Properties](#) and [Waste Connections of Tennessee](#); Gold Sponsors [Home Federal Bank](#) and [Cannon & Cannon Inc.](#); Silver Sponsors [Coldwell Banker Wallace and Wallace Realtors](#) and [Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers](#); and the other four Bronze Sponsors, [Dover Development](#), [Elizabeth Eason Architecture](#), [Knoxville Area Association of Realtors](#), and [TIS Insurance Services](#).

The City of Knoxville appreciates these community stakeholders for their support of this conference and Knoxville's residential neighborhoods.

8. Attend the 2018 Neighborhoods USA Conference

Neighborhoods, USA ([NUSA](#)) will hold its 43rd annual National Conference in Birmingham, Ala., on May 23 – 26, 2018. Neighborhood leaders in Knoxville may wish to consider attending this event.

The early bird registration fee is \$200 through March 23. From March 24 through April 1 the fee is \$300 per person. Other costs to consider: transportation to and from Birmingham, hotel room and related fees, and meals not included in the conference.

NUSA is a national non-profit dedicated to promoting strong neighborhood organizations. This year's conference will feature over 60 workshops, with topics ranging from affordable housing and education to crime reduction.

In addition to workshops, highlights include the Mayoral Panel, three Keynote Speakers, and a separate Youth Conference. The Youth Conference runs concurrently with the National Conference and is focused on developing youth 13-18 years of age into active, knowledgeable neighborhood residents.

[Register here](#) for the 2018 NUSA Conference. Or contact Felicia Mitchell at 205-601-3369 or Felicia.Mitchell@birminghamal.gov. The conference hotel is the [Sheraton Birmingham Hotel](#).

9. Meetings Scheduled to Discuss New Zoning Code

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods are co-sponsoring five public meetings to provide neighborhood groups with information on the city's new zoning code.

At these meetings, MPC staff will address questions and request feedback on the new code. Work on the zoning code, which has not been updated in over 50 years, is dubbed "Recode Knoxville." Visit <https://recodeknoxville.com/> to learn more about this important effort for all of Knoxville, including our residential neighborhoods.

The first draft of the new code is expected to be released during the week of March 19. Following public comment, a second draft, and even more public comment, a final draft will be submitted to Knoxville City Council before the end of 2018.

In addition to attending the public meetings and keeping up with the Recode website, Knoxville residents can stay informed by [subscribing](#) to the Recode Knoxville newsletter.

Here are the scheduled meetings:

***** Saturday, March 24:** MPC Executive Director Gerald Green and other MPC staff will discuss Recode Knoxville in a workshop at the annual Neighborhood Conference, which will be held at the Knoxville Marriott. To attend this or other workshops, and to participate in this free conference otherwise, registration is required. See the [2018 Neighborhood Conference](#) for more details.

MPC staff will also be on hand for these April meetings, all of which begin at 6 p.m.:

***** Monday, April 2,** O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona Street.

***** Tuesday, April 3,** Woodlawn Christian Church, 4333 Woodlawn Pike.

***** Thursday, April 19,** Cumberland Estates Recreation Center, 4529 Silverhill Drive.

***** Thursday, April 26,** Deane Hill Recreation Center, 7414 Deane Hill Drive.

If you are unable to attend the meeting nearest your work or home, you can attend any of the other meetings.

Thanks to Amy Midis --- a member of the Neighborhood Advisory Council as well as the Recode Knoxville [Stakeholder Advisory Committee](#) --- for her work in securing dates, times and places for the four April meetings.

The next meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee will be held from 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. Mayor Rogero, City Council, and Planning Commissioners are invited to attend and participate in a discussion with the Advisory Committee members, staff, and the consultant in this effort, Camiros. The meeting, which is open to the public, will focus on progress being made on the project.

10. Neighborhoods: Check the MPC and BZA Agendas

The Metropolitan Planning Commission ([MPC](#)) will conduct its monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, March 8) in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building. [Check the MPC agenda](#) to make sure there is nothing on the docket that impacts your neighborhood. In addition, the [agenda](#) is out for the March 15 [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) meeting.

11. Public Meeting Set for Brownfield Cleanup Projects

The City of Knoxville this month will hold a public meeting on two brownfield cleanup projects --- the former McClung Warehouses site on Jackson Avenue and the former Sanitary Laundry site at 625 North Broadway.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 19, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 544 N. Broadway.

City of Knoxville Office of Redevelopment staff and representatives of S&ME Inc., the contractor chosen through a competitively-bid contract to implement the projects, will be present. [Read the full story.](#)

12. S&P Affirms City's High Bond Rating

Citing the City of Knoxville's "very strong management" and "strong budgetary performance," Standard & Poor's has affirmed the City's AA+ bond rating.

Combined with Moody's Aa1 rating and Fitch's AAA rating, the City of Knoxville is benefitting from its highest-ever credit ratings. The strong ratings allow the City to pay less money in interest for bonds to finance one-time capital projects, such as the Public Works Service Center, Lakeshore Park upgrades, and South Waterfront infrastructure.

Jim York, the City's Finance Director, said a single jump up in a bond rating grade can save the City up to \$200,000 a year in interest payments. [Read the full story.](#)

13. Is Your Child's Car Seat Installed Correctly?

The Knoxville Police Department will conduct a free child car seat checkpoint on Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 917 E. Fifth Avenue.

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA), 80% of all child restraints are used incorrectly.

During the KPD checkpoint, child car seats will be checked by a certified car seat technician, who will demonstrate the correct way to install your child's car seat.

Directions from I-40: Take exit 389 (Broadway - Hall of Fame Drive exit), Take Hall of Fame Drive toward downtown, Go 0.4 of a mile and turn left onto East Fifth Avenue at the Fraternal Order of Police Building, go 0.1 of a mile and turn left into the parking lot after going under the railroad trestle.

For more information, call 865-215-7103.

14. Wetlands Planted at Fountain City Lake

Contractor crews in recent days have been planting two wetlands at Fountain City Lake – one of the last steps in the City's ongoing commitment to improve the lake's water quality.

Once the plantings are completed, the spring-fed lake will refill and saturate the new beds. The fast-growing plants – including cardinal flower, blue flag iris, button bush, soft rush and wintergreen – should fill out the new wetlands beds by this summer.

For years, thick algae has overwhelmed the lake. The City's aim has been to repair the lake's infrastructure so that the ecosystem can regain its long-term balance.

The City's \$750,000 lake restoration project started in fall 2014 with the repair of a leak in the lake's earthen berm, allowing the lake to deepen to its proper depth. Workers then repaired the fountain and pump house to aerate the water. [See the full story.](#)

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 Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 215-2831.

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>

** Don't have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.