

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 14 – Tuesday, April 24, 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. Volunteers Needed to Install Free Smoke Alarms**

The Knoxville Fire Department is combining forces with American Red Cross to deliver and install – free of charge – 1,000 smoke alarms this coming Saturday, April 28, to residents in the Park City, Parkridge, and Beaumont neighborhoods.

To volunteer, call the Red Cross at 865-584-2999 or visit [this sign-up page](#).

Saturday's installations will take place from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Volunteers should be at the rally point --- Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church, 4615 Asheville Highway --- by 9 a.m.

If you need a smoke alarm but do not live in the above neighborhoods or will not be at home Saturday, you are invited to call the Red Cross at 584-2999 to schedule an installation appointment. Working smoke alarms cut the chance of fatality in house fires in half, the Red Cross says.

This is just the latest installment of the Red Cross's "Sound the Alarm, Save a Life" campaign, which occurs amidst the reality that seven people die in home fires every day in the United States. Four adults and two children were consumed by smoke and flames at a house fire in Alcoa [just this past Sunday](#).

## **2. Learn about New Zoning Code This Thursday ... and in May**

The last of four neighborhood-centric meetings on the City of Knoxville's proposed new zoning code will be held at 6 p.m. this Thursday, April 26, at Deane Hill Recreation Center, 7414 Deane Hill Drive.

A staff member of the Metropolitan Planning Commission will provide an overview of the new code along with a timeline of the remaining work.

The first draft of the new code --- which can be found at <https://recodeknoxville.com/> along with other helpful information --- is a result of months of discussion and public input, with more meetings and public input to follow before a final draft is placed before the Metropolitan Planning Commission ([MPC](#)) and Knoxville City Council this fall.

Meanwhile, MPC has scheduled four separate, hours-long, drop-in workshops in May. By attending the May workshops, citizens can not only hear a general presentation of the zoning code update, but also have an opportunity to ask in-depth questions of MPC staff. Here are the workshop details:

\*\*\* Wednesday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Presentations @ 9 a.m. and noon. City of Knoxville's Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Avenue.

\*\*\* Thursday May 17, 3:00-7:30 p.m. Presentations @ 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Church of the Good Shepard, 5409 Jacksboro Pike, Fountain City.

\*\*\* Friday, May 18, 7:30-11:30 a.m. Presentations @ 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Oakwood Lincoln Park Club House; 916 Shamrock Avenue.

\*\*\* Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m.-Noon. Presentation @ 10:30 a.m. Location to be determined. Check the [www.recodeknoxville.com](http://www.recodeknoxville.com) website.

In addition, Knoxville City Council will hold a zoning code workshop starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building. The purpose of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for Council members to engage in an in-depth discussion of and ask questions about the first draft of the code with the Camiros consulting firm that is assisting MPC and the City with the code drafts.

Meanwhile, in an effort to gather input about the zoning code from traditionally underrepresented sectors of the city, MPC recently contracted with the Knoxville Area Urban League and SEEED, in partnership with Centro Hispano de East Tennessee, to conduct the needed outreach. [See the full story.](#)

## **3. Historic Fourth and Gill Hosts 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of Homes**

The [Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization](#) is holding its 28<sup>th</sup> Annual [Tour of Homes](#) on Sunday, April 29, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The family-friendly tour begins at Central United Methodist Church, 201 Third Avenue, with plenty of free parking. From the church, guests can choose to either stroll or take a red trolley from point to point. Each trolley will be hosted by a resident tour guide.

Advance tickets are \$12 per adult, and free for children 12 and under. Tickets can also be purchased on tour day for \$15 per adult, with children 12 and under being free.

Purchase advance tickets at <https://fourthandgill.wordpress.com/annual-home-tour/>. Guests must bring a copy of their advance ticket receipt to Central United Methodist Church to receive their tour booklet, which serves as a ticket for each of the stops on the tour.

#### **4. Grant Workshop Offers Ideas for Neighborhood Projects**

The Office of Neighborhoods (OON) is offering a Grant Ideas Workshop on Monday, April 30, 6-7 p.m., in advance of the Neighborhood Small Grants funding cycle this spring and summer.

Come with knowledge of your neighborhood's strengths and challenges, and we will talk about opportunities to seek funding. Along with helping to formulate ideas, OON will also provide a handout of funding resources.

This workshop is designed for neighborhood groups who are struggling to come up with an idea for a neighborhood improvement project, who have an idea but need help planning it, and who want more information about funding and fund-raising.

Contact David Massey at 215-3232 or at [dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov) to register for this work session and to receive details about the location. **The registration deadline is 3 p.m. Friday, April 27.**

The 2019 cycle for OON's Neighborhood Small Grants Program begins later this spring. The application and guidelines will be posted on or about May 8, and mandatory pre-application workshops will be held in late May and early June. Proposals will be due on July 17, and winning proposals will be funded before the end of the year for projects carried out in 2019.

#### **5. District 3 Representatives Host Meet and Greet**

City Councilwoman Seema Singh-Perez and County Commissioner Randy Smith will host a casual meet-and-greet with constituents this upcoming Monday, April 30, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Shoney's, 4410 Western Ave.

This event is an opportunity to bring questions and concerns to Knoxville's and Knox County's Third District representatives. Or simply come to chat and enjoy some pie!

For updates and more, visit [the Facebook page](#). To see the Council and Commission districts, visit [KGIS Maps](#) and click on Political District Maps. Council District 3 and Commission District 3 overlap but are not the same.

#### **6. Oakwood Lincoln Park Meeting to Cover Overlay Districts**

The **Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association** is working with the [Metropolitan Planning Commission](#) to study the possibility of an overlay district in the neighborhood.

Kaye Graybeal, MPC's historic preservation planner, will discuss the NC-1 Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District at a neighborhood-wide meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, April 30, at the neighborhood clubhouse, 916 Shamrock Avenue (in the same block as Christenberry Elementary School).

She will also compare the NC-1 overlay to the H-1 Historic Overlay District. So far, a formal application has not been filed for either district. At the request of Fifth District City Councilman Mark Campen, City Council last year asked MPC to investigate the feasibility of an overlay district in the neighborhood.

Oakwood Lincoln Park currently is zoned in several ways. Lincoln Park is zoned R-2 multi-family, but Oakwood is a patchwork of R-1 single family and R-2 multifamily districts. The entire neighborhood has an infill housing overlay, which is designed to ensure that infill housing conforms to the basic design of other homes in the same block.

NC-1, however, could include more specific design guidelines. [See the NC-1 section of the zoning ordinance](#). The [H-1 Historic Overlay District](#) is stricter still. A formal application for either district would require the applicant to suggest design guidelines that, if adopted by City Council, would govern both new construction and renovations to the outside of a home.

## **7. Five Points Up Sets New Clean-Up Date**

[Five Points Up](#) --- a community organization supported by the [Knox County Health Department](#) --- will conduct a clean-up operation in East Knoxville on Saturday, May 5. Previously the clean-up was scheduled for April 7 but was postponed due to weather.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. with participants meeting at Eternal Life Harvest Center, 2410 MLK Jr. Avenue, to grab materials. The volunteers will then head back to their respective neighborhoods to search for trash. Participants should return to Eternal Life Harvest Center by 12 p.m. for a free lunch and fellowship.

For more information, contact Tanisha Baker by phone at 546-5125 or 215-5187 or by email at [villageofknox@aol.com](mailto:villageofknox@aol.com).

## **8. Keep Knoxville Beautiful Seeks Input on North Knoxville Projects**

**Keep Knoxville Beautiful** (KKB) is requesting information about current projects in and the needs of North Knoxville communities in connection with its selection of this area as its Community of the Year.

Each fiscal year, KKB focuses on one specific community while also helping with projects in other areas of the county. Currently East Knoxville is KKB's Community of the Year. That focus shifts to North Knoxville for the year beginning July 1.

If you live, work or play in North Knoxville, KKB requests that you [take this survey](#) to help KKB help North Knoxville become cleaner, greener and more beautiful. For more, contact KKB at 521-6957 or [info@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org).

## **9. Neighborhood Working Group to Discuss Blighted Properties**

The **Neighborhood Working Group on Blighted Properties** (NWG) will meet Thursday, May 3, 5:15-6:30 p.m., at Cansler Family YMCA. All are welcome.

Cheri Hollifield, a member of the city's Neighborhood Codes Enforcement team, will review blighted properties that were brought before the [Public Officer](#) in recent months, providing everyone a window into the city's code enforcement protocols and the challenges associated with curing blight.

In addition, the group will discuss any other blighted properties that individuals or neighborhood groups wish to bring up. If you have a specific blighted property to report, please download and fill out this [Blighted Property Profile](#) and send it to Cheri at [chollifield@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:chollifield@knoxvilletn.gov). If possible, please include 2-4 digital photos of the property. You might wish to first check with Cheri to see if the property is already on the city's radar. Call her at 215-2867.

The deadline to submit this report for the May 3 meeting is noon on Monday, April 30.

NWG has been in existence for several years, but participation has been limited primarily to individuals who took the city's "Fight the Blight" class. However, at the request of NWG members, anyone can now attend and get involved.

Under a new meeting format, NWG will now review blighted properties on odd-numbered months, and hear from city officials and other speakers on blighted property issues and related topics on even-numbered months. The group always meets on first Thursdays at the time and location indicated above.

Requests for a hard copy of the Blighted Property Profile and other questions may be directed to Cheri Hollifield, Neighborhood Codes Enforcement, at 215-2867 or the email address above.

## **10. BBB to Consider 808 Gratz**

The Better Building Board (BBB) meeting this Thursday will consider whether to evoke the "Demolition by Neglect" ordinance on 808 Gratz Street. The board meets at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Neighbors affected by this property may wish to be present to testify on its impact on the neighborhood. [See a full copy of the BBB agenda.](#)

Under certain conditions, the Demolition by Neglect ordinance authorizes the City to prevent the demolition or deterioration of a building that is, in effect, being "demolished" because of neglect, i.e. because the owner is unable or unwilling to take corrective action.

## **11. Are These Blighted Properties in Your Neighborhood?**

Just nine properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. Friday, April 27.

The Public Officer --- David Brace, director of Public Works for the city --- 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 and/or demolition orders are:  
3815 Catalpa Avenue (confirmation of emergency repair/demolition order), 303 Hialeah Drive (accessory trailer only), 2323 Juniper Drive (accessory structure only), 2529 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue (commercial), 2531 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue (commercial), 1728 Massachusetts Avenue, 1537 Minnesota Avenue, 3209 Shields Avenue, and 1023 Tennessee Avenue.

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 April 27 agenda, with details on each property, can be found at [www.cityofknoxville.org/plansreview/agenda\\_poh.pdf](http://www.cityofknoxville.org/plansreview/agenda_poh.pdf) by the end of this week.

## **12. City to Hold Public Hearing on Draft Annual Action Plan**

[As reported previously](#), the City of Knoxville's Community Development Department will conduct a public hearing on its draft Annual Action Plan at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 7, at John T. O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona St.

Copies of the Draft Plan can be found at [www.knoxvilletn.gov/development](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/development) or at the following locations: the Department of Community Development, 5th floor, City-County Bldg., 400 Main Street; the Lawson McGhee Public Library (main branch), 500 W. Church Ave.; and the main office of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC), 2247 Western Avenue. Citizens may also obtain a copy of the draft plan by calling the Community Development Department at 865-215-2180.

The City of Knoxville encourages citizen comment on the draft plan. Citizens may also submit their comments via e-mail to Linda Rust at [lrust@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:lrust@knoxvilletn.gov) or in writing by mail or fax to Linda Rust, City of Knoxville, Community Development Department, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901, fax 865-215-2962 or by calling 865-215-2180 for additional information. All comments must be received no later than May 7, 2018.

## **13. Open Streets Knoxville Set for May 20 South of the River**

Knoxvillians are invited to walk, bike, jog or dance their way along Sevier Avenue and Suttree Landing Park for the next Open Streets event from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, May 20.

A portion of Sevier Avenue wrapping around to the park at Foggy Bottom Road will be closed to motorized traffic, allowing everyone to play, exercise, socialize, and shop on foot, bicycle, tricycle and wheelchair.

Open Streets Knoxville is hosted by Bike Walk Knoxville with support from the City of Knoxville, Knoxville Regional TPO, Visit Knoxville and Knox County. Its purpose is to promote physical activity and community interaction at this free community event. This will be the sixth Open Streets event in Knoxville, with an average attendance of 3,500 people.

Organizers are asking for sponsorships and donations to help make Open Streets Knoxville a huge success. For details, visit [www.openstreetsknoxville.com](http://www.openstreetsknoxville.com).

**14. [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 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.*