

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 26 – Tuesday, August 7, 2018

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2018-08-07>

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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. Kids Are Back to School; Please Be Safe

Knox County Schools begin classes on Wednesday, Aug. 8. Please watch for children and be safe!

Some children will be walking to school in your neighborhood for the first time or to a new school for the first time and not be paying attention to traffic. Please drive carefully to watch out for them as they might not see you.

Also, be aware of flashing lights in a school zone to slow down. Not only is speeding unsafe around school children walking, it could bring you a hefty fine. And, for those who have not heard, there is a new law stating that if you are on your phone in a school zone, it must be a hands free type.

Let's all make sure that kids in our neighborhoods have a safe start back to school.

2. Meet Our 'New' VISTA Staff Member

The Office of Neighborhoods was lucky enough to keep an AmeriCorps VISTA position again this year through our partnership with [CAC AmeriCorps](#) and we are lucky enough to keep the same member as last year.

Many of you have met Hannah Freeman. Prior to coming to Knoxville last year, she came from Northern Virginia. Hannah graduated from The College of William & Mary with a double major in psychology and history.

She will be with us for 12 more months, extending the Office of Neighborhood's reach by working in lower income neighborhoods. Her service year will be dedicated to helping neighborhood organizations increase their capacity in order to serve their communities more effectively.

We are so happy she made the choice to stay a second year. If you are interested in having Hannah speak at your next meeting, she can be reached at 215-3456 or hfreeman@knoxvilletn.gov.

3. Magnolia Streetscape Project Breaks Ground

All are welcome to join the City of Knoxville staff on Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018 at 10 a.m. for the ground breaking of the new Magnolia Streetscape coming. Please invite your neighbors.

The event will be held at the corner of Magnolia Ave. and Jessamine St. Jessamine St. will be closed just prior to the event for the ground breaking ceremony.

You can walk if you live close by, ride the bus, or drive. If you ride the bus, buses 12 and 31 are the best routes. See [KAT's](#) website. If you drive, you can park at the Cansler YMCA / O'Connor Senior Center and walk over.

4. Prices Change for Courtesy Boxes

Effective July 1, 2018, the price of Courtesy Boxes increased to \$75.00.

If you were already on the list for a Courtesy Box as of June 30, 2018, the new fees will not affect you. Any calls placing you on the waiting list for one after July 1, will be charged the new rate.

The Public Service Department, which places these large dumpsters, can assist residents in removing large amounts of unwanted trash or bulky items. The Courtesy Boxes can be rented by city residents twice per year, up to seven days at a time. Examples of good uses are home cleanouts and neighborhood cleanups.

These boxes are for residents only, NOT landlords, realty companies, or businesses that have purchased property for rent. They are in high demand and there is a waiting list of 2-3 months, so please plan in advance. For more information and a list of prohibited materials visit the [Courtesy Box information page](#).

Courtesy Boxes can be requested by calling 311 or 865-215-4311. Requests can also be submitted online [here](#).

5. Parks and Rec Now Accepting Application for Challenge Grants

Interested in transforming or adding to your neighborhood park?

The City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for its 2018-2019 [Challenge Grant Program](#).

Grants are available for any non-profit project associated with public parks or recreation facilities within city limits. Whether improving playground equipment, adding a water fountain, or beautifying the landscape; Challenge Grants are provided to improve public spaces for all who enjoy them.

This year, grants are available to any community groups, homeowner associations, schools, and organizations with 501(c)3, 501(c)4, and 501(c)6 status.

All recipients of the Challenge Grant will be reimbursed 50 percent of the cost of any single project, up to \$2,500. Community match can be made from dollar contributions, as well as volunteer donated labor.

All grants must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department by **Friday, Sept. 14, 2018.**

All applicant awards will be announced by late Oct., 2018, and projects work must be completed by Monday, April 29, 2019.

Call 311 or 865-215-4311, for questions regarding the Parks and Recreation Challenge Grants.

6. Save Our Sons Hosts Neighborhood Conversation

The City of Knoxville's Save Our Sons, an initiative of the Mayor's Office, will host a second Neighborhood Community Conversation on Thursday, Aug. 16, at Wesley House Community Center, 1719 Reynolds St from 6-8 p.m.

Save Our Sons previously hosted a Neighborhood Community Conversation at Vine Middle in July.

These conversations are focused on bringing neighborhood organizations, local community advocates and business organizations together for frank conversations concerning the community participation needed to continue to create safe, strong, and healthy communities.

Neighborhood Community Conversation topics will address the realities and perceptions of participants' lives and challenges; raise community awareness; and gain perspectives on the appropriate strategies necessary to create a city-wide partnership. In addition, the conversations will use facilitators and surveys to collect data and better identify immediate needs and implementation strategies.

All are encouraged to attend, especially young people. For more, contact Tatia Harris at 215-2831, tharris@knoxvilletn.gov or Kevin Perry at 215-2589, kaperry@knoxvilletn.gov.

7. Urban Forestry Division Awarded State Planting Grant

Did you know that the City of Knoxville plants 500 to 600 trees each year? That number is in addition to trees planted through capital projects such as the Suttree Landing Park project.

The City's Urban Forestry Division this year has once again received a \$20,000 Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program grant from the Tennessee Division of Forestry. The grant will make it possible for the City to plant about 300 trees on City property.

"This is a significant funding source for our ongoing urban forestry efforts as it helps us plant about half of the trees that our crews plant in the City each year," Kasey Krouse, the City's Urban Forester, explained in the City press release.

Beginning this fall, crews will begin planting the new trees in Parkridge, Five Points, Lonsdale, Oakwood Lincoln Park, and Belle Morris neighborhoods as well as Victor Ashe Park.

Why are trees important? Along with beautification, there are many reasons to invest:

Trees absorb 40 pounds of carbon dioxide each year, improving air quality. The tree canopies provide shade, reducing temperature in a home by approximately 10 degrees and reducing the cost of utilities. Properties surrounded by trees can increase 7 to 25 percent in value. Trees can even reduce crimes! A study in Philadelphia found that neighborhoods with trees saw significantly less crime than those without.

For more, visit the City's [Urban Forestry Project](#).

8. KKB Hosts North Knoxville Clean-Up

[Keep Knoxville Beautiful](#) (KKB) is hosting a North Knoxville Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The event will kick off at Edgewood Park, located at 3109 Ocoee Trail Knoxville, TN 37917.

If you or your neighborhood organization would like to volunteer, follow [this link](#) to get registered or contact Aleta Daniels at 865.521.6957. KKB will provide litter pickers, gloves, garbage bags, and safety vests.

All interested volunteers (including children) are welcome!

9. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar (click link for 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.*