

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 8 – Tuesday, February 25, 2020

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*Published by the City of Knoxville’s Office of Neighborhoods, we report news important to Knoxville’s residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-3232. News deadline: 12 noon on Fridays.*

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### **1. Welcome First District City Councilmember, Tommy Smith**

The Office of Neighborhoods would like to welcome Tommy Smith to the First District City Council seat.

This seat was recently vacated by Stephanie Welch so she could join the City of Knoxville as the Chief Economic and Community Development Officer and Deputy to Mayor Indya Kincannon.

Mr. Smith was elected to the First District seat by City Council in a special election held on Thursday, Feb. 20. You can watch the video of the meeting here on [CTVKnox.org](http://CTVKnox.org).

### **2. Reserve Your Seat at The Neighborhood Conference**

Sally: “Dana, are you planning to attend this year’s Neighborhood Conference on March 28? I heard registration is open.”

Dana: “I was considering it. It was great last year, and I heard our new Mayor is speaking.”

Sally: “Oh, that’s right! It will be neat to hear some of her initiatives and see what the community topics are this year. I heard there will be a motivational speaker this year, too!”

Dana: "Let's go! I will register today and invite our neighborhoods group members to attend. It would be nice to have a strong showing from Mossy Bottom Neighborhood."

Sally: "Great idea, Dana! I'll register, too, and help spread the word." ☺

Join the Mossy Bottom Neighbors and bring a strong showing of support from your neighborhood to this year's Neighborhood Conference. Not only is this year's conference a great opportunity to network with City departments and other neighborhoods, but there will be opening remarks from Mayor Kincannon; four new workshop topics; a keynote speaker on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and awards for Neighbor of the Year, Neighborhood Achievements, and Officer Liaison of the Year. Don't forget, there will be over 80 information booths.

Register today by going to [The Neighborhood Conference Registration](#).

For more information, visit the [2020 Neighborhood Conference](#) or contact Courtney Durrett at 215-3232 or [cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov).

### **3. Registration for BSNO is Open**

Are you interested in develop your leadership skills? Would you like to learn how to better build community in your organization? Is there a major issue in your neighborhood you'd like to address?

If you said "yes" to any of these questions, the Building Stronger Neighborhoods Organization (BSNO) leadership workshop is for you! The 12-week program covers a wide range of topics designed to equip neighbors with the tools to start and sustain effective neighborhood organizations. This year's workshop will be held every Thursday from 6-9 p.m., starting April 16, and ending July 9. We will skip the week of July 4.

BSNO is an important program for neighborhood leaders, active neighbors, and anyone looking to enhance their skills in community organizing. Topics that will be covered during the sessions include: styles of leadership; identifying and utilizing a neighborhood's most important asset; facilitating effective meetings; recruiting and retaining members; internal and external communications; decision-making and conflict-resolution methods; strategic planning; and more.

If you have a neighbor, friend, or rising community leader who may benefit from the BSNO training, please share this opportunity with them. The class is a great way to learn alongside and network with community leaders from across the city.

Registration for the BSNO Leadership Training Program is [open](#). The deadline to register is April 2.

For more information about BSNO, visit the [website](#) or contact Eden Slater at [eslater@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:eslater@knoxvilletn.gov).

### **4. BBB and POH Meet this Week**

Five properties are listed on this week's Better Building Board (BBB) agenda. The BBB will meet on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 3:30 p.m., in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

The BBB meets every Third Thursday of the month to hear appeals of the Public Officer's orders.

The following properties are up for discussion on this week's agenda for determination of blight: 421 Oakcrest Rd., 203 East Red Bud Rd., 3734 Speedway Cr., and 2100 Washington Ave. One property is listed to discuss for certification of blight: 3410 Southwood Dr., including accessory structure.

Visit the BBB [website](#) for the full agenda.

Thirteen properties are on the [agenda](#) for the City's next Public Officer Hearing (POH) at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, in the Small Assembly Room of the City-County Building.

The Public Officer holds hearings and issues orders to property owners to make repairs or to demolish unfit structures. If the property owner does not comply with the order, the city may repair or demolish the structure and charge the owner for the service.

The properties to be considered are: 4632 Ball Camp Pike (including accessory structure), 1721 Boone St. (including accessory structure), 4305 Bounds Rd., 128 East Burwell Ave. (accessory structure only), 2652 Greenway Dr., 1609 Jefferson Ave. (including accessory structures), 4249 Lilac Ave. (including accessory structure), 3202 Linden Ave. (including accessory structure), 314 Oakland St. (confirmation of emergency repair only order), 307 Shasta Dr., 3021 Shelbourne Rd., 822 Valley Dr. (pool, deck, and pool house only), 2106 Washington Pike.

If any of these properties are located in your neighborhood, you may consider attending the BBB or POH to speak on the issue. To learn more about the BBB or POH, visit the City's [BBB and POH website](#).

## **5. Brush Pickup Begins Next Week**

Brush collection for Knoxville residents begins March 2 and continues every other week through the last week of October.

To expedite brush pickup for residents, city crews will be moving to a week-of brush pickup schedule. This means that all brush should be ready for pickup by 7 a.m. on the Monday of your designated pickup weeks.

To find your street's assigned week, call 311 or go to Public Service's [website](#) and enter your address to find out which weeks your brush will be collected.

Free signs are available for neighborhoods to help remind residents of their brush pickup weeks. To get your signs, please contact Kelsey Vincent [kvincent@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:kvincent@knoxvilletn.gov). Kelsey can also help you schedule someone from the Public Service department speak to your neighborhood group about brush pickup and the City's other services.

Look for a postcard in your mailbox that will explain the new pickup schedule and requirements for brush collection. A copy of this mailer can also be found on the [City's website](#).

The most important thing about brush pickup is where you place it:

- Put brush piles where equipment can reach without damaging your property (i.e. away from mailboxes, parked vehicles, utility poles/meters, landscaping, fences, etc.).
- Piles should be within 5 feet of the street and no larger than 6 feet wide, 6 feet deep and 6 feet tall.
- Keep trash separate from brush, and remember the city does not pickup construction or demolition materials.
- No stumps or branches larger than 12 inches in diameter.
- No trees or branches from contractors providing tree services; contractors should remove materials from your property.
- Keep your brush off public property like medians, islands, greenways and sidewalks.
- One brush pile per property address every two weeks.

## **6. Public Meeting Scheduled For Fort Kid**

The City of Knoxville will host a public meeting to get feedback about Fort Kid on Thursday, Mar. 12, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the Knoxville Museum of Art, 1050 World's Fair Park Dr.

At the meeting, City officials will update residents on the future of the park and ask attendees to share their fondest memories of the site, what they like about the current play facilities, and discuss what they would like to see in the future Fort Kid.

The City is committed to stabilizing the site, improving accessibility and making it a place for even more families to enjoy for generations to come.

In order to start the process, Fort Kid is scheduled to close Monday, Mar. 23. The City will continue to seek public input before a final design is in place. The park is anticipated to reopen by the end of this year.

For additional information, read [this article](#) on the City's website.

## **7. Deadline to Reserve Trees is March 1**

On [Tennessee Tree Day](#) (Saturday, March 21), thousands of Tennesseans will plant more than 100,000 native tree seedlings, including Cyprus, Oak, Pine, Pawpaw, Sumac, Wild Plum and more. There are four tree pick-up sites in Knoxville:

- [Trees Knoxville at Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum](#) in East Knoxville
- [Ready Mix USA](#) in South Knoxville
- [New Hopewell Elementary School](#) in South Knoxville
- [University of Tennessee Gardens](#) near downtown and UT campus

Choose the location you'd like to visit and click the link to see your location's time and address and reserve your seedlings.

All pickup sites are run independently. Tree seedlings are available by donation of \$2.49 per tree and 4.99 per tree, based on species, payable when you reserve the tree(s). Donations will not be accepted at the distributions sites. Trees must be reserved and paid for by March 1.

This event, organized by the [Tennessee Environmental Council](#), helps instill public awareness of the value of trees, improve the health of our environment and communities through the multitude of benefits trees offer, and nurture a culture of sustainability in our region.

Learn more about the City's Urban Forestry department and its efforts to support our urban forest on [the department's website](#).

### **8. Census 2020, Why Is It Important?**

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts the decennial census, a population count of everyone in the United States where they live. Seniors, teens, babies, college students – everyone counts!

Starting Mar. 12, residents can go online and complete 10 simple questions, call the Census Bureau directly, or fill out and mail in Census forms.

Census participation is important to all Knox County residents because the data collected is used to determine the amount of federal funding our community receives for schools, roads, public transportation, senior centers, and other necessities.

We're counting on neighborhood leaders like you to help all residents complete the census.

Census responses are confidential. Census workers will never ask for Social Security, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, citizenship information, or anything on behalf of a political party.

Visit [www.CountMeInKnox.com](http://www.CountMeInKnox.com) for additional information that you can share with your neighbors to help ensure a complete count.

### **9. Health Seminar: "The State of Black Health in Tennessee"**

The Alliance House Community Coalition is sponsoring a health seminar addressing the health disparities faced by black residents. The event will be Saturday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Austin East High School, 2800 Martin Luther King Jr Ave.

Monique Anthony, Director of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination, is the keynote speaker at the seminar, which will include a panel discussion, lunch and vendors.

Join in to evaluate the health disparities facing black residents and address inequalities centered on public health policy and intervention.

For more information, visit [Alliance House Community Coalition's website](#), call 865-332-2677, or email [allianceknox@gmail.com](mailto:allianceknox@gmail.com).

### **10. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar** (click link for online calendar)

Call 215-3232 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at [scCook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scCook@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours before the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 215-2831.

### **Other Calendars**

Additional online calendars that cover events outside the neighborhood realm include:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)
- [Parks and Rec Community Programming](#)

### **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: 12 p.m. Fridays.*

*\*\* May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood email 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.*