

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 17 – Tuesday, May 5, 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. Join Us To Celebrate Fourth of July, COVID-19 Style

During these challenging times, we are learning that adapting to a “new normal” is important for the safety and health of our community. Since all festivals and events are on hold until groups can safely gather, the City of Knoxville’s annual Festival on the 4th has been cancelled. But we can still display our patriotic spirit!

The City of Knoxville’s Office of Special Events, in collaboration with the Office of Neighborhoods, is inviting neighborhood organizations to participate in “Knoxville’s Neighborhood Trails of Red, White and Blue,” a safer-at-home, socially distant, community-wide celebration of Independence Day inspired by Dogwood Arts’ Dogwood Trails

We invite neighbors to decorate their houses, porches, lawns, mailboxes, driveways, and family members (we urge everyone to use their creativity!) with a patriotic theme. The city will invite people to drive through the participating neighborhoods and enjoy the creative décor. Each participating neighborhood will be asked to have their decorations on display for viewing from Friday, July 3, through Sunday, July 5, giving people time to tour the different areas of the city.

Judges and a caravan parade will drive through the participating neighborhoods on Saturday, July 4, between 1-4 p.m. During this time, we invite neighbors to dress up,

make signs, and sit outside of your homes/apartments to help celebrate and make the most of the holiday while practicing the required social distancing.

A group of local celebrities will judge this neighborhood competition in the following categories:

- Best decorated neighborhood
- Neighborhood with the best overall patriotic spirit
- Best decorated object (mailbox, window, stoop, etc.)

We ask that there be no political messaging involved.

Which neighborhoods would like to get creative with planning, decorating, and showing off your neighborhoods spirit?

If your neighborhood is interested in participating in this celebration, please let us know by Wednesday, June 10. To register your neighborhood, please email information with the name of the neighborhood, a contact name and phone number, and the one or two main streets that will be participating to Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov.

The City will provide signage for the entrance of your neighborhood and a map of the participating neighborhoods. Additional information will be posted online. We look forward to celebrating the 4th of July in a creative and unique way with our community and hope you will join us for this special event in Knoxville!

We hope to see a large number of neighborhoods join in the challenge!

2. Save the Date: NAC Meets May 13

Despite missing the April meeting due to COVID-19, The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) does plan to meet in May. In an effort to keep the NAC active and engaged, they will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, May 13, from 4:30-6 p.m. Details of the Zoom meeting will be posted Monday, May 11, on the Office of Neighborhood's website, and Tuesday, May 12, in the Neighborhood Advisory Newsletter.

Officer John Morgan, of the Knoxville Police Department, will speak about how to stay safe during these unusual times and give an active shooter presentation.

Everyone is invited to join the webinar. If there is enough time at the end, we will open up questions from the audience.

Stay tuned! The Zoom information will be provided in this newsletter. If you have any questions, contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382.

3. Neighborhood Wiffleball Tournament Cancelled

The Office of Neighborhood regrets to announce that this year's Wiffleball Tournament, scheduled for Saturday, June 13, is cancelled due to COVID-19.

Keep practicing, distantly, and your team will be extra prepared for next year's event!

Previous winners were:

2020 – COVID-19

2019 – Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association

2018 – Westwood Neighborhood Association

2017 – Westwood Neighborhood Association

4. City Council Meets Tonight Via Zoom

City Council will meet this evening, Tuesday, May 5, at 6 p.m. via Zoom video/audio conference. The [agenda](#) is available on the City's website.

If you wish to speak on an agenda item or during public forum, you must register with the City Recorder's Office by phone, 865-215-2075, or by email, wjohnson@knoxvilletn.gov, before 4:30 pm today.

Members of the public will not be able to physically attend the meeting, but they can watch on Community Television of Knoxville either [streaming on its website](#) or on broadcast television:

- Xfinity (Comcast) – Channel 12
- Charter (Spectrum) – Channel 193
- WOW! (Knology) – Channel 6
- AT&T U-verse – Channel 99

Prior to the regular meeting, Knoxville City Council will hold a workshop at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom video/audio conference. The workshop will cover the City's Community Improvement Fund (202). There is a workshop [agenda](#) available on the City's website.

All are invited to join.

5. Parks and Rec Challenge Grant

Does your neighborhood group have an idea for sprucing up or adding amenities to a local park? [City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation](#) is now accepting applications for its 2020 Challenge Grant Program, which offers grants up to \$2,500 in matching funds to public parks, spaces, or recreation facilities located within city limits.

If your neighborhood group has 501(c)3, 501(c)4 or 501(c)6 status or is a homeowner's association, you can apply! Your neighborhood group can also use a fiscal sponsor of your choice if you do not have non-profit status.

Important deadlines:

- Applications due – Friday, June 26
- Award notifications will be made – July 2020
- Project work must be completed by Friday, January 22, 2021

The 2020 Challenge Grant Application is now available [online](#).

If you have questions, please call 311 or 865-215-4311.

6. HND Seeks Input On Amended Consolidated Plan

Last year, many neighbors participated in the Housing and Neighborhood Development (formerly known as Community Development) Department's (HND) 2020-2024 five year Consolidated Plan. This and the 2020-2021 Annual Action plan are still in the draft phase and will be presented for public comment later this month.

However, due to COVID-19, there have been some substantial changes in the current 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan that neighbors might be interested in reviewing.

On April 2, HND was notified that they would receive \$1,036,418 in supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) and \$513,272 in supplemental Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus/COVID-19. Programs are being developed to assist individuals and families that have lost employment or income due to COVID-19. Detailed information about the programs will be forthcoming.

This increase in funding is part of a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) signed by the President on March 27, after the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a state of emergency. Funding from the CARES Act is provided to state and local governments to assist them to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. It also offers supplemental funding for grants to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 for homeless individuals and families or those receiving homeless assistance and homelessness prevention. Additionally, it allows some waivers for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, among other things.

Programs are being created to assist families with housing assistance that have lost income due to COVID-19. Detailed information about the programs will be forthcoming.

The supplemental CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funding will alter the previously planned funding allocations set out in the 2015-2019 five-year consolidated plan and the 2019-2020 annual action plan.

Intentions for the allocation of the new funds are as follows: \$829,135 in CDBG-CV and \$67,760 in 2019-2020 CDBG funds for housing assistance for CDBG-eligible renters and homeowners; \$203,893 in ESG-CV funds for Homelessness Prevention activities; \$258,052 in ESG-CV funds for Emergency Shelter/Essential Services; and up to \$207,283 in CDBG-CV and \$51,327 in ESG-CV funds for administration. These priority projects and activities will benefit eligible individuals and households adversely impacted by the coronavirus/COVID-19's economic impact.

The five-year consolidated plan requires public participation to approve allocation of funds. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, alterations have also been made to the City's Citizen Participation Plan. Visit [Citizen Participation Plan](#) to view the plan draft.

All Knoxville residents are invited to comment on the drafts of the Amendments and Citizen Participation plan; comments can be submitted to Linda Rust at lrust@knoxvilletn.gov or by mail at P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901, between now and Monday, May 18.

7. June 2020 Open Streets Canceled

It is with heavy hearts that [Bike Walk Knoxville](#) made the final decision to cancel Open Streets South. The event, previously scheduled for Sunday, June 14, had already been pushed back from its original date of Sunday, May 11, due to growing concerns over COVID-19.

Despite the desire to host the crowd-pleasing event full of activity and fun, continued regulations against group gatherings have led Bike Walk Knoxville to make the final call and cancel this season's event.

Stay tuned for future Open Street's events by following the [Open Streets Facebook](#) page. For other interesting ways to have fun outdoors with appropriate social distancing, visit the [Bike Walk Knoxville](#) Facebook page.

8. Domestic Violence Calls Are Increasing

During these stressful times, domestic violence calls are on the rise. Sharing this information with your groups could help someone in need.

[Sunshine Behavior Health](#) has created a resource that discusses emerging solutions to domestic violence and also includes information on teen dating violence—offering definitions, statistics, infographics, and prevention strategies. They stress the importance of early prevention and recommend some “Programs to Stop the Cycle.” Included is a list of free hotlines, a shelter locator and organizations for domestic violence victims to contact if needed.

You can call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224 or text “LOVEIS” to 22522.

Si necesita información en español, por favor haga [clic aquí](#).

9. Knox Makes Masks Seeks Support for Volunteers

Not-for-profit organization Knox Makes Masks is working hard to take and fill orders of homemade masks for hospitals and frontline workers across East Tennessee.

Knox Makes Masks provides masks free of charge to frontline workers. All masks are made by volunteers from donated materials, and volunteers pick up masks from their makers and deliver them to the group in need.

In an effort to help support volunteer “runners” traveling across the region to pick up and drop off masks, Knox Makes Masks has asked for gas card donations. If you are able and willing to donate, even a \$10 or \$20 gas card can go a long way to help volunteers perform their duties and keep mask delivery in operation.

If you would like to donate, please visit the [donation page](#) and fill out the form. Visit [Knox Makes Masks](#) to learn more, volunteer as a runner, donate, or volunteer to sew masks!

10. Hillcrest Healthcare Kicks Off Every Light Matters Campaign

To pay tribute to healthcare heroes across Knoxville working on the front lines of COVID-19, Hillcrest Healthcare has kicked off an “Every Light Matters” campaign.

The three-part campaign encourages neighbors to “light up” social media by changing their profile pictures to the blue “Every Light Matters” graphic, uses physical blue lights to light up the city with support, and includes an Instagram art contest for participating residents to honor local health heroes.

The light tribute features blue lights at the three Hillcrest Healthcare communities in Island Home, West Hills, and Beverly Park Place, as well as buildings and landmarks, including the pedestrian bridge over Henley Street, Hoskins Sign on Middlebrook Pike, and Wastewater Treatment Plant on Neyland Drive.

“Every Light Matters” graphics are available on their [website](#). All art contest participants can take part by uploading an image of your art work to Instagram and using the hashtag #everylightmatters.

For more information, to view art contest rules and available prizes, or to be a sponsor, visit [“Every Light Matters”](#). Support local healthcare workers, spread the blue light!

11. 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 scook@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.*