

**Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 33 – Tuesday, September 1, 2020**

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-09-01>

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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. No Newsletter for Two Weeks**

We know many of you were excited to see the newsletter back up and running last week after the Office of Neighborhoods was not able to publish for a few weeks (while our systems were down).

We are happy that you get a lot out of the newsletter. Unfortunately, we will not be publishing the newsletter for two weeks, but this time it is planned.

Our next newsletter will be on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

### **2. City Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday**

The City of Knoxville offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Waste Connections will continue to run its normal residential garbage and recycling routes on Monday, Sept. 7. Downtown garbage and recyclables will also be collected on the regular schedule during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

As a reminder, Thanksgiving and Christmas are the only days of the year when residential curbside trash and recycling are not picked up as scheduled.

The City's five recycling drop-off centers will also be open on Monday, Sept. 7, but the Goodwill attendant will not be available to receive donations of household goods.

As a general reminder, the Solid Waste Facility is currently only accepting debit and credit cards due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. No cash will be accepted.

The City's Solid Waste Facility located at 1033 Elm Street will be closed on Saturday, Sept. 5, and Monday, Sept. 7. Due to the holiday, "Free for City Residents Saturday" at the Solid Waste Facility will be held on the second Saturday of this month - Saturday, Sept. 12.

To learn more about the City's garbage and recycling schedule, how COVID-19 is affecting drop-off locations, and more, visit the Waste and Resource Management [webpage](#) or call 3-1-1.

### **3. NAC Meets Next Week**

The Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) meets next Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The topic for discussion is Workforce Development with Tim Waldo as the speaker. He will explain what Workforce Development is and how it affects neighborhoods. Waldo is a consultant with the University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services (UT-CIS).

UT-CIS helps companies and communities succeed, grow and create high-quality jobs by providing consulting, training and connecting services across the state.

To join the webinar, click the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/97434600570?pwd=ZUdyYTNST2Y5d2UvZTYzbkRqMmFxdz09>  
Passcode: 963530

Or you may call in with one of the following numbers:

US: 1-253-215-8782 or +1-346-248-7799

Webinar ID: 974 3460 0570

Passcode: 963530

All are welcome to Zoom in with us. If time allows, guests will be able to speak in the webinar as well.

If you have any questions, contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382.

### **4. City Seeks Candidates for Neighborhood Advisory Council**

Are you an advocate for your neighborhood --- and neighborhoods in general? Would you like to learn more about how city government works? Do you enjoy discussing

public policy, particularly with regard to neighborhoods? Would you like to work with other neighborhood leaders on neighborhood issues?

If you answered YES to these questions, then please consider serving on the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC).

The NAC meets at 4:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss Knoxville's residential neighborhoods and provide the City with candid viewpoints on how they can best be maintained, supported, improved, rejuvenated, and sustained.

NAC consists of neighborhood leaders and activists who occupy a total of 15 seats --- two in each of the six City Council districts and three at large. Terms are set for three years, and members may serve up to two full terms (six years). Members wishing to serve a second three-year term must reapply.

The terms of five of the 15 seats expire this December. These seats and current occupants are:

- City Council district, Seat 2-B (Jennifer Reynolds)
- City Council district, Seat 4-B (Matt McMillan)
- City Council district, Seat 5-A (Ann White)
- City Council district, Seat 6-A (Derek Tate)
- City Council district, At Large Seat C (Emma Ellis-Cosigua)

To be appointed by the Mayor to a numbered seat, you must live in that City Council district. For example, the person appointed to Seat 4-B must be a resident in the fourth City Council district. These positions will begin in Jan. 2021 and run through Dec. 2023.

If you are interested in serving, please fill out and submit an application, located online [here](#) and return it to Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN, 37901. Call the Office of Neighborhoods at 215-3232 to have a hard copy mailed to you or for more information about the positions.

Applications are due by **Friday, Sept. 25, at 4:30 p.m.**

To view the exact boundaries of the City Council districts, browse [KGIS's website](#) and then click on Maps, Political District Maps, and City Council. You can also input your own address to find out which political districts you live in.

## **5. TPO Meetings Cancelled for September**

Due to lack of action items, The Knoxville Regional [Transportation Planning Organization](#) (TPO) will not hold either its regularly scheduled Technical Committee or Executive Board meetings for the month of September.

The Technical Committee typically meets every second Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m., in the City County Building Small Assembly Room, 400 Main St., to collaborate with staff on the development of regional transportation plans and program. Technical Committee recommendations are then presented to the Executive Board.

The TPO Executive Board provides a forum of collaboration and makes decisions on regional transportation policy, planning, and funding. They are responsible for setting such policy and adopting plans and programs. The Executive Board generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

To learn more about the TPO, these committees and boards, and future meetings, please visit the TPO [website](#).

## **6. KUB Offers Payment Assistance for Moratorium End**

In light of financial constraints many residents are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Knoxville Utility Board (KUB) committed to providing essential services across the community. Beginning in March, KUB suspended power and water disconnects and waived all late fees accrued since March 16.

KUB announced Monday that the moratorium on service disconnects will be lifted starting on Oct. 19. Following that date, KUB will resume disconnecting power and water services to those who have not paid their KUB bill. Subsequently, all unpaid payments since March 16 will need to be repaid.

KUB is working to help as many residents as possible to repay their balances and to stay connected to essential services. They are helping customers navigate this difficult time through personal assistance, automatic payment plans, and bill-pay assistance resources.

All Knoxville residents who have accrued debt on their KUB bill over the past few months are encouraged to call KUB at 524-2911. A KUB representative can work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill, connect you with resources, and make sure your essential services stay on. While disconnects will not start until Oct. 19, those in need of assistance are encouraged to call as soon as possible.

For more information on KUB's repayment plans, resources, and their COVID-19 response, visit [KUB's Pandemic Response Plan](#).

Remember, there is help available, but you must call KUB at 524-2911 for assistance.

## **7. KUB Seeks Board Commissioners**

Now through Sept. 10, the Knoxville Utility Board (KUB) is seeking applicants for its Board of Commissioners.

KUB board members serve a seven-year term, beginning January 2021, and help advise KUB on providing electric, natural gas, water, wastewater and other services to more than 464,000 customers.

To apply to be on the KUB board, please check out the [KUB Commissioner Application](#).

## **8. Are You Taking Care of Your Mental Health?**

The outbreak of COVID-19 is causing additional stress for a great deal of people. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 and its effects can be overwhelming for both adults and

children. Everyone responds differently to stress because we all come from diverse backgrounds and have different life experiences. Taking care of yourself, your friends, and your family can help you cope with stress. Assisting others in need can also strengthen your community.

Ways to cope with stress:

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body.
- Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate.
- Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
- Exercise regularly, and get plenty of sleep.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- Know and share accurate information about COVID-19.

Call your healthcare provider if stress gets in the way of your daily activities for several days in a row.

People with preexisting mental health conditions should continue with their treatment and be aware of new or worsening symptoms. Additional information can be found at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) website at [www.samhsa.gov/disaster-preparedness](http://www.samhsa.gov/disaster-preparedness).

If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others, please call someone.

- If you want to harm yourself or others, call 911
- Disaster Distress Helpline: call 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746, [www.samhsa.gov/disaster-preparedness](http://www.samhsa.gov/disaster-preparedness)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: call 1-800-799-7233, TTY 1-800-787-3224, [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)
- Tennessee REDLINE: 1-800-889-9789, call or text for referrals to substance misuse treatment and recovery resources
- Region 2 Lifeline: Monica Poston, 423-907-4328
- Alcoholics Anonymous: [www.etiaa.org](http://www.etiaa.org), 212-870-3400
- Narcotics Anonymous: [www.naknoxville.org](http://www.naknoxville.org), 1-844-409-3762
- Al-Anon: [www.knox-al-anon.org](http://www.knox-al-anon.org), 1-888-425-2666
- Celebrate Recovery: [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com), 865-924-8026
- SAMHSA's Helpline: [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov), 1-800-662-4357
- In The Rooms: [www.intherooms.com](http://www.intherooms.com)
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255), a free 24-hour hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)
- Crisis Text Line: text TN to 741-741 to connect to a trained counselor 24/7, [www.crisistextline.org](http://www.crisistextline.org)

- Veterans Crisis Line: Call 800-273-8255 and Press 1, text 838255, [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)
- TN Statewide Crisis Line: 855-CRISIS-1 (855-274-7471), a 24/7 call system to help anyone experiencing a mental health crisis
- Helen Ross McNabb Mobile Crisis: 539-2409, mental health and crisis assessments that are available 24/7
- [Helen Ross McNabb Center COVID-19 counseling helpline](#): Provides assistance with stress management, emotional support, and connections to community resources, 855-661-9191, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Please take care of yourself and/or don't be afraid to ask for assistance! You are important!

## **9. Planning Encourages Use of Interactive Map**

Have you seen a Knoxville Knox County Planning sign at a property near your house and wondered what that meant?

You can look up each project on Planning's website and see what changes are being requested. First visit this [interactive map](#) to find the property near you, then you can find further details on the meeting [agenda](#).

The map shows all active projects when they first open and is updated three weeks prior to the Planning Commission meeting, held every second Thursday of the month. This month's Planning Commission meeting is on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 1:30 p.m.

## **10. BZA Plans Rescheduled Meeting; HZC at Regular Time**

The [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) (BZA) rescheduled meeting will be this Thursday, Sept. 3, at 4 p.m., virtually via Zoom.

BZA will consider the following petitions for variance of requirements: 2401 N. Central St.; 3819 Oakhurst Dr.; 500 Callahan Dr.

The [Historic Zoning Commission](#) will meet on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 8:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room, Main floor of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

Certificates of Appropriateness will be awarded to: 1419 Harvey St.; 1022 Eleanor St.; 6481 Kingston Pk.; 1219 Luttrell St.

For accommodations, contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at 215-2034 or [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov). For translation services, contact Tatia Harris at 215-2831 or [tharris@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:tharris@knoxvilletn.gov).

## **11. One Month Left to Register to Vote**

Tennessee offers online voter registration. You can also register by mail to vote in Tennessee by printing a voter registration form, filling it out, and mailing it to your local election office. You can also register to vote in person if you prefer.

To register in Tennessee, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be a resident of Tennessee
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the next election
- Not have been convicted of a felony, or if convicted, have had your voting rights restored
- Not be adjudicated incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction (or have been restored to legal capacity)

You can complete the online voter registration here: <https://ovr.govote.tn.gov/>. If you are a Knox County resident, you can mail your voter registration form to the following address: Knox County Election Commission, 300 Main St., Suite 218, Knoxville, TN 37902. If you have any questions, you can call the Knox County Election Commission at 865-215-2480.

**In order to vote on Election Day, Nov. 3, you must register by Oct. 5.**

## **12. Help Us Count Everyone in the Census 2020**

Our community deserves all the funding that comes along with counting everyone! For every person we miss, it costs our community thousands of dollars, over the next 10 years.

If you have already filled out your Census 2020 form, thank you! Please ask five people this week if they have done the same. If you have not filled out your Census 2020 form, please do so as soon as possible and ask five people this week to join you.

The numbers below indicate the percentage of people who have already filled out the census, based on zip code. If you live in one of these zip codes and the numbers are low, please help us by reaching out to as many of your neighbors as you are able. Explain the importance of completing the census, and consider making it a friendly competition. You may also want to post on Facebook, call the neighbors you know, etc. If you have a student living near or on campus at the University of Tennessee, please get them to fill out their Census 2020 form. The census counts everyone where they lived on April 1, 2020, whether it's a dorm room, apartment, condo, cottage or yacht.

Currently, the winning Zip Codes are 37919/39, followed by 37934, and in third place is 37922 at 79.8%. Who will be ahead next week?

37902	45.8%
37912	71.6%
37914/24	67.3%
37915	48.6%
37916	27.6%
37917	65.9%
37918/28/38	77.1%
37909	72.7%
37919/39	82.6%
37920	75.4%
37921	71.6%
37922	79.8%

37923	75.2%
37931/32/33	78.0%
37934	80.2%

The deadline to complete the 2020 Census is Wednesday, Sept. 30. Act fast; time is limited!

**[13. 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](mailto: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.*