

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 40 – Tuesday, November 3, 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. It's Election Day; Go Vote!

If you haven't early voted, you have one last chance to vote today. You must vote at your precinct. To view your voter registration information and voting locations please view the following [website](#).

At the polls, you will need to show photo ID to vote. Acceptable forms include (can be expired): Tennessee driver's license; U.S. passport; photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security; photo ID issued by the federal or Tennessee state government; U.S. military photo ID; or Tennessee handgun carry permit with your photo. College student IDs are NOT acceptable.

If you're a first-time voter who registered by mail, you will also need to show proof of residence to vote. Acceptable forms include: a current photo ID (unexpired); or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address.

If you completed an absentee ballot, your ballot must be received by Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020 by 8 p.m. If you have been tracking your absentee ballot and it has not been received by the Knox County Election Commission, you may go to your precinct and fill out a provisional ballot. If you still have your completed absentee ballot in hand, you can

hand deliver it – with postage – to the U.S. Post Office on Main Street and place it in one of the outgoing mailboxes before 3 p.m.

2. Register for the Neighborhood Holiday Trails by Nov. 13

You may still be thinking pumpkins and ghosts, but we are switching gears. Now that Halloween is over, let the Christmas planning begin!

“Knoxville’s Neighborhood Holiday Trails” celebration is coming up the week of Nov. 30, and the deadline to register your neighborhood is Friday, Nov. 13.

This holiday season, we invite neighborhoods across Knoxville to participate in “Knoxville’s Neighborhood Holiday Trails,” a community-wide celebration highlighting neighborhoods and promoting physical distancing. Neighborhoods are encouraged to decorate homes, porches, lawns, mailboxes, and driveways with a holiday theme. Participating neighborhoods should choose one or two streets to be identified on the “Neighborhood Trails Map.” The City will post and share the map for neighbors to drive through the “Holiday Trails” and see all the beautiful lights and decorations! This is similar to what Neighborhoods did for the Fourth of July’s inaugural and very successful “Trails of Red, White, and Blue.”

Additionally, we’ll create a special scavenger hunt list for drivers to search for specific decorations and decorated places. If your neighborhood’s decor includes a giant inflatable snowman, a decorated park gazebo, a Rudolf on the roof, or the like, be sure to include those details in your registration.

If your neighborhood plans to decorate this holiday season, contact Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov, before Nov. 13, and get your streets on the map. List a couple main streets or areas to highlight, and make sure to mention any special items to list for the scavenger hunt.

Historic Holston Hills Community Club and the **Northwest Hills Neighborhood Watch** are registered; register and show off your neighborhood’s holiday cheer, today!

For more on “Knoxville’s Neighborhood Holiday Trails,” and other “Christmas in the City” celebrations, check out the [Special Events](#) page.

3. COVID-19 Assistance Deadline Extended to Dec. 4

Has COVID-19 affected you or your family’s income? If you have been impacted since March 1, 2020, there are resources available for you.

Thanks to a CARES Act funding from the State of Tennessee, the Knoxville Knox-County Community Action Committee (CAC) and HomeSource East Tennessee are providing assistance to homeowners and renters across East Tennessee. The deadline to apply for funding assistance has been extended to Dec. 4!

If you are seeking assistance for paying rent, mortgage, or utilities: Visit [East Tennessee COVID Housing Assistance](#) to see if you qualify for housing assistance. More information, an interactive map, and the application and instructions can all be found [here](#).

If you are seeking assistance to pay your utility bills:

Visit CAC's [website](#) to download a CARES Utility Payment application. Send a completed application, a copy of your driver's license or photo ID, a copy of your most recent utility bill, and documentation of the COVID-19 related income loss to CAC using one of the following methods:

E-mail: CARES.intake@knoxcac.org

Mail: Knox CAC West Neighborhood Center, P.O. Box 51650, Knoxville, TN 37950

Drop Off: CARES drop box, L.T. Ross Building main entrance 2247 Western Ave.

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

For more information, assistance, or additional resources, please call your nearest CAC Neighborhood Center:

- West/Central/North: 524-3345
- East/South: 546-5125

Anyone who has been financially affected by COVID-19 may qualify, regardless of annual income. Call and get the assistance you need, as soon as possible.

4. ONE Hosts Zoom 101 Workshop on Nov. 9

If you want to plan or attend virtual meetings, but are not sure how, the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment has designed a virtual workshop for you. This workshop will be via Zoom on Monday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m.

The Zoom workshop will explain how to schedule a Zoom meeting both on the website and through the computer application, and demonstrate how to utilize all the features that are included in the free version.

If you are interested in attending this event, contact Katie Catron at kcatron@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3232.

5. Open Enrollment For Affordable Care Act Is Now Open

Area residents without health insurance can receive personal assistance to learn about their options under the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace during the open enrollment period, which began Nov. 1 and ends Dec. 15.

In past years, the Tennessee Health Care Campaign and Cherokee Health Systems held ACA enrollment events at multiple locations and in person. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's ACA enrollment sessions will be conducted remotely at no charge to participants. To schedule an appointment with a trained counselor/assister, contact:

- Tennessee Health Care Campaign: InsureAllTN.com or 844-644-5443
- Cherokee Health Systems: 866-672-1979

Additional information about purchasing health insurance on the ACA marketplace is available at www.HealthCare.gov, the federal government website, or by calling 1-800-318-2596.

Enrollees should have these documents on hand when they call:

- Social Security numbers (or documentation of legal status)
 - Employer and income information for every household member to be covered (pay stubs or W-2 forms are acceptable)
- If renewing, you must bring your User Name and Password

6. Lions Club Continues Free Eye Exams

Area Lions Clubs continue to partner to provide free eye exams and glasses to residents who need them!

While these screenings were temporarily postponed due to COVID-19, they are now available by appointment the third Wednesday of every month at the Fountain City Lions Club, 5345 N. Broadway.

After the screening, you may select your new frames and wait for your glasses to be made on site. If you don't have time to wait, the glasses can be shipped to you.

To make an appointment, call the East Knoxville Lions Club at 320-8956. Appointments are limited, and priority is given to school-aged children.

7. How Will Your Neighborhood Celebrate this Holiday Season?

Is your neighborhood planning a fun, creative, physically distanced holiday celebration? Whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Festivals, Winter Season, or any other celebration, the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) would love to share your plans with other Neighborhood Advisory readers!

COVID-19 has led to many changes this year, with numerous cancellations, and many holiday celebrations looking a little different. However, the resilient and innovative ways Knoxville's neighborhoods have come together to celebrate and stay connected, have made it all more bearable. When times are tough, the community can lift you up!

Please contact Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov to let ONE know how your neighborhood plans to celebrate.

If you are looking for other fun ways to celebrate this holiday season, check out these new and improved "Christmas in the City" events:

New Events:

- Drive-In at the Midway: On Nov. 20 and Dec. 4, holiday movies will be broadcast on the big screen for drive-in viewing at Chilhowee Park. Movie titles will be and space is limited; sign up early to secure a spot.

- Knoxville Neighborhood Holiday Trails: Check out article 2 above for details and reach out to Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov by Friday, Nov. 13, to register your neighborhood.

Modified Events:

- Downtown Decorations: Starting Monday, Nov. 23, downtown streets and Krutch Park will be decked out in lights and garland, including the annual giant Christmas Tree in the park.
- Holidays on Ice: The Holidays on Ice skating rink will re-locate to the Civic Coliseum this year to allow for physical distancing. Skating will begin on Friday, Dec. 11. Visit [Holidays on Ice](#) for the full schedule.
- Peppermint Trail: Peppermint-themed lighting will twinkle throughout Market Square. Take a look around and see which participating downtown businesses and restaurants are showcasing special decorations, providing special menu items, and decking their shelves with special treats.

For more information, visit [Christmas in the City](#). There are many ways to feel the cheer and stay safe this holiday season!

8. Yahoo Groups to End Dec. 15

Although many neighborhoods use Yahoo Groups to communicate, this service will completely shut down on Dec. 15.

If your neighborhood will be impacted by this discontinuation, here are some alternative options:

- Facebook Groups – the option to make it public or private, on a platform that a lot of people already use, but can be limiting to those who don't have or want a Facebook account.
- Google Groups – similar to Yahoo groups (free and email based)
- Nextdoor – you can see what is going on in your neighborhood, and also create specific groups for your entire neighborhood, but also means people have to sign up for something new.

Find a method that might work best for your group and make sure to work out the details before Dec. 15.

9. Did You Know Knoxville Has a Tree Board?

The purpose of the City Tree Board is to formulate a master street-tree plan for all municipal property. The Board assists in disseminating news and information regarding the selection, planting, establishment, and maintenance of trees, as well as advising City Council on desirable legislation affecting the City's tree program.

Important work of the City Tree Board includes:

- Conducting education and outreach about the importance of trees

- Hosting an Arbor Day Celebration each year, involving elementary school children
- Working with the Knoxville Knox County Planning to develop a Street Tree Planting Plan

The City Tree Board meets on the first Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m., at the Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Ave.

If you would like to be on the agenda, please contact Tree Board Chair Dale Madden at dalemadden@earthadelic.com.

10. Keep Knoxville Beautiful to Host Virtual Summit Nov. 13

Keep Knoxville Beautiful (KKB) will hold its annual summit on Nov. 13, 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m., via Zoom webinar.

The theme of this summit is *Individual Pathways to Sustainability*, and it aims to showcase ways you can be more environmental and sustainable in your everyday life.

The Summit will kick off at 9 a.m., with a presentation from Melissa Hinten of UT's Department of Geography. Hinten will focus on reducing your carbon footprint. At 10:15 a.m., Harley Bryant with KUB will give tips on reducing your home energy and water bill. The final presentation will be at 11:30 a.m., focusing on creative reuse with Ashlee Mays, creator of the Museum of Infinite Outcomes in Parkridge. You can watch all three sessions, or pick the topics you are most interested in.

The Summit is free, those wishing to attend may [pre-register](#). Pre-registering allows you to receive reminders about the event.

11. Are You Interested in Community Composting?

Dr. Chad Hellwinckel, with the University of Tennessee, seeks input for a survey researching whether community composting would work in Knoxville.

Community composting sites are popping up in neighborhoods around the country (Philadelphia, DC, Nashville), where neighbors can collect food scraps and have them composted at small, managed locations near neighborhoods. A benefit is that neighbors get great compost back to use in their home gardens.

Your input will be valuable for this research project, please take a moment to fill out the survey and share your perspective.

To take the 5-10 minute survey, click the [link](#) or call 541-321-3691.

12. 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 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.*