

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 14, No. 1 – Tuesday, January 5, 2021

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Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, 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.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods>

1. Happy New Year From ONE!

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) wants to wish you a very Happy New Year! Even with this past year being a bit unusual, our office has stayed busy working with neighborhoods across Knoxville. We also worked on several new projects that you will learn about in 2021. We look forward to the possibilities of the new year and working with neighborhoods to make this an even more amazing city.

2. Parkridge Hosts Shine Bright Event

In an effort to boost neighborhood holiday spirit, the **Parkridge Community Organization** hosted a creative event that was both socially distant and interactive. Neighbors were encouraged to build their own lanterns or request a DIY lantern-making kit to create a fun, light-up lantern to hang on their porch.

Parkridge porches were not only lit up with festive and unique decor for the holidays, but neighbors also had the opportunity to participate in the "Shine Your Brightness for the Holidays" event, which included a lantern contest and a parade. Neighbors met on New Year's Eve in Caswell Park with their lanterns and walked four blocks to "shine bright" for all neighbors to see. Neighbors were encouraged to come out, distantly, to watch the parade. The event concluded with a lantern contest, awarding winners for tackiest, most colorful, most vibrant, and most unique. Lantern pictures were posted on social media with the #shinebrightparkridge tag for those who stayed indoors to enjoy.

Bonnie Cassamasima organized the “Shine Bright” event, inspired by a similar event in Atlanta. Olive Street Soulful Market and Deli helped sponsor the event by donating prizes for the lantern contest winners.

Thank you, Parkridge neighbors, for organizing such a unique creative event! Events like these help spread holiday cheer, connect neighbors, and encourage togetherness, even in these crazy times. Consider hosting your own neighborhood lantern event for Valentine’s Day, Spring, Easter, or even the summer solstice.

If your neighborhood found its own creative way to celebrate this holiday season or is planning an event for future seasons, let the ONE know! Email eslater@knoxvilletn.gov; we would love to spread the word about the creative ways you are finding to celebrate your neighborhood.

3. NAC, Including New Members, Meets Next Week

The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) will meet next week on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom.

For four members, this will be their first meeting. The new members are:

Alanna McKissack: Seat 2-B
Brent Waugh: Seat 4-B
Philip Hipps: Seat 5-A
Breauna Hollaway: Seat 6-A

At-Large representative Emma Ellis-Cosigua was re-appointed for a second term.

All are invited and welcome to attend. Comments and questions will be made by the NAC members first. If time allows, questions or comments can be taken from the attendees.

The NAC meets monthly. Members are appointed by the Mayor to serve three-year terms giving advice about neighborhood issues to the City’s administration and returning valuable information back to their neighborhoods.

For more information or if you would like the Zoom link for this meeting, contact Debbie Sharp, 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

4. The Neighborhood Conference Is A Go!

Save the date!

The 2021 Neighborhood Conference is planned for Saturday, March 27, from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Knoxville Convention Center and the Exhibition Hall, 701 Henley Street.

We are taking every precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Attendance will be limited. Masks will be required. There will be temperature checks at the doors and hand-sanitizing stations placed around the Convention Center and the Exhibition Hall. Chairs

at the workshops and at the lunch tables will be spaced apart the appropriate distances. All food will be boxed or wrapped to ensure everyone's safety.

Conference events will be spread out between the Convention Center and the Exhibition Hall. The opening plenary, workshops and lunch will be in the Convention Center; booths will be in the Exhibition Hall.

Lastly, attendees will be split into two groups that will swap spaces during the conference to ensure that there are not too many people in one space at the same time.

Residents who can't attend in person will be able watch portions of the conference live streaming on Community Television of Knoxville (CTV).

Registration will begin in February. If you have questions, contact Courtney Durrett at cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3456.

5. COVID-19 Vaccination Plan Prioritizes Residents Ages 75+

In response to the State of Tennessee's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is prioritizing residents ages 75 and older to receive the vaccine during the current Phase 1a1, which also includes first responders.

KCHD will be deploying multiple strategies to help widely distribute the vaccine, including multiple locations and distribution points as the vaccine becomes more widely available.

In the coming weeks, KCHD will be announcing opportunities for residents to schedule appointments to receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Additional vaccine opportunities will be announced regularly. Other vaccine providers, including clinics and doctor's offices, will also come online as part of the vaccination plan.

KCHD is experiencing a high level of calls and high demand for the vaccine. If you call to make an appointment, please be patient if it takes some time to get through to the KCHD Public Information line.

For updates on vaccine distribution and more information on the COVID-19 pandemic response in Knox County, visit the KCDH [website](#).

6. Housing and Neighborhood Development Plan Public Input Meeting

The City of Knoxville Housing and Neighborhood Development Department seeks input on their Year Two Annual Action Plan Update for the Five Year Consolidated Plan. A public meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m., via Zoom to discuss and hear input for the 2021-2022 plan.

The Five Year Consolidated plan prescribes the planned local use for three types of federal funds allocated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Act, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The Year Two Annual Action Plan will go over plans for the above funding for the 2020-2021 year, starting July 1.

The Jan. 14 public meeting will cover the following:

- Discuss anticipated HUD and local funding for PY2021-2022 programs
- Review priority goals and objectives from its 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan
- Give an overview of CARES Act Supplemental CDBG and ESG funding in response to COVID-19
- Introduce representatives from the University of Tennessee SWORPS who will provide data on the need for emergency shelter and affordable housing in Knoxville
- Facilitate a discussion on unmet needs and gaps in affordable housing and emergency shelter and services, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Describe the process for developing the draft 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan
- Inform agencies on how they may apply for grant funding to meet priority goals and objectives

The Housing and Neighborhood Development Department would like to hear your input on moving these plans forward.

To join the Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. on Jan. 14:

<https://zoom.us/j/94651190799?pwd=K0E1VEtEZDZ6cnQzVTQ1THRIRmRadz09>

Meeting ID: 946 5119 0799

Passcode: 595556

Dial by your location

+1-646-558-8656

If you cannot make the meeting and would like to give input, please send comments and questions to Linda Rust at lrust@knoxvilletn.gov, or by mail to Linda Rust, City of Knoxville Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901. Please call 215-2357 for additional information.

7. Input Sought on East Knoxville Interchange Plan

After years of studying possible fixes to the problematic Magnolia Avenue, Asheville Highway, and Rutledge Pike interchange in East Knoxville, neighborhood stakeholders, City officials and TDOT officials agree: Signalized intersections with wide sidewalks would serve Burlington families better than a multi-lane roundabout.

The City's engineering consultant, Gresham Smith and Partners, presented a conceptual plan to neighborhood groups and stakeholders on Dec. 14 via an online community workshop. The plan included recommendations to improve the nearly 60-year-old state interchange.

The presentation, condensed into a 6.5-minute short video, is available on the City's website: <https://bit.ly/3rlbm3m>.

Additional information, including a project update, technical memos, displays from an Oct. 30, 2019, open house, and a Burlington Enhancement Plan presentation, are available at [here](#).

This study, which identifies recommendations for short- and long-term improvements to the interchange, has not yet been finalized. The City's Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, which has convened six stakeholder meetings so far, is soliciting additional feedback. Residents, business owners and other stakeholders are encouraged to watch the video and email ideas or comments to neighborhoods@knoxvilletn.gov. **The deadline for comments is Sunday, Jan. 31.**

8. City Council to Hold Workshop Thursday Jan 7

City Council is holding a workshop on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 4 p.m., via Zoom.

Council will hear a presentation by Zimbabwe Matavou on his article "State of the Black Community: A Culture in Decline - Rescue and Restoration" and a presentation from Bike Walk Knoxville on their Vision Zero plan.

You can watch the meeting on CTV at www.ctvknox.org.

9. Unique Trees of the Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum

The City of Knoxville Tree Board invites you to join a webinar with Master Gardener and Forester Dan Steinhoff in which he will discuss the unique trees of the Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum.

This webinar will be on Monday, Jan 11, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed out the morning of the webinar from treesknoxville@gmail.com.

If you would like to learn more about the unique trees of the Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum, please register using the [link](#).

Registration for the event is free and closes Monday, Jan 11, at 8 a.m.

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 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.*