

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 14, No. 2 – Tuesday, January 12, 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.*

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### **1. MLK Commission Offers Activities for MLK Day**

[MLK Commission](#) will offer several activities for MLK Day. Due to COVID-19, some activities will be provided on Zoom, some have been postponed to a later date, and others were cancelled.

If you are interested in joining the Interfaith Prayer Service on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 12 noon, you may contact the Interfaith Chair at [Interfaith@MLKKnoxville.com](mailto:Interfaith@MLKKnoxville.com).

If you would like to participate in an MLK Community Conversation on Monday, Jan. 18, at 4 p.m. via Zoom, "The Roots of Justice: The Roots of Racism, Addressing Systemic Racism Across Our Society" with Knoxville Vice-Mayor Gwen McKenzie, you will need to [register](#). All are invited to join.

Other events will be held later in the spring, see the MLK Commission's [webpage](#) for more information.

### **2. City Posts MLK Holiday Schedule**

City of Knoxville offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 18, to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Waste Connections will run its normal residential garbage and recycling routes that day. (Thanksgiving and Christmas are the only days of the year when residential curbside trash and recycling are not picked up as scheduled.) Downtown trash and recyclables also will be collected on a regular schedule on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The City's five recycling drop-off centers will be open, but the Goodwill attendant will not be available to accept donations of household goods.

The City's Solid Waste Management Facility, 1033 Elm St., will be closed from Saturday, Jan. 16, through Monday, Jan. 18.

### **3. NAC Member Challenged Neighborhoods; See What Happened**

The Knoxville Neighborhoods Food Drive through Second Harvest of East Tennessee came to an end in December.

Morgan Wilson, a member of the Neighborhood Advisory Council and of the **Parkridge Community Organization**, challenged neighbors to donate what, in previous years, they might have otherwise spent on travel costs, host gifts, or groceries to feed a large gathering to help feed those who may not have food this holiday season. She began the challenge the week before Thanksgiving and only intended to do it for a week. However, it did so well, she decided to extend the challenge through Christmas.

Through this initiative, Knoxville neighborhoods raised 45,010 meals for a total of \$15,000! Your donations are greatly appreciated, and it was wonderful watching neighborhoods work together for the good of the community. Thank you to all those who participated.

### **4. There's Gnome Place like Fourth and Gill**

The **Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Association** brought some extra fun to the neighborhood this holiday season with their holiday Gnome named Gill. This creative and COVID-19-friendly neighborhood activity allowed neighbors to follow Gill's journey through the neighborhood and send treats to their neighbors as they passed on the gnome.

Jeffery Johnson, Grace Novinger, and the social committee came up with the "Gnome on the Roam" idea as a way to get neighbors involved throughout the whole month of December in a safe and fun way. As the gnome was passed from neighbor to neighbor, each recipient sent a photo of themselves, children and/or pets, which would be designed into a festive, sometimes funny, graphic that was then posted to their neighborhood group and social media platforms. Throughout December, Gill visited 20 different homes across the neighborhood!

Thank you for organizing such a creative activity, Fourth and Gill! Fun neighborhood activities like this promote community building and spread holiday cheer, even during difficult times. Consider adopting your own neighborhood holiday character for Valentine's Day, Spring, Easter, or more.

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

## **5. Deadline for Neighbor of the Year Nominations Approaching**

Last Call: Nominations for the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award are open and will be accepted through this Friday, Jan. 15, until 4:30 p.m.

With COVID-19 ruling our lives in 2020, has there been a standout person in your neighborhood who worked to keep everyone healthy, stable, and mindful? Have they helped to keep spirits up? Did they bring folks together for safe events? Did they give to those in need? We want to hear about these neighborhood blessings!

To nominate someone, fill out the nomination [form](#) and return it to Courtney Durrett either by email at [cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov) or by mail to: Office of Neighborhoods, City of Knoxville, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901.

The Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award is presented annually to a Knoxville resident who has devoted time and talent in service to their neighbors and neighborhood. The award is meant to honor someone who makes a positive contribution behind the scenes without seeking recognition for their service.

If you have questions, you may also call 215-3456. To learn more about previous winners, visit the [website](#).

## **6. NAC Meets This Week**

The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) meets virtually Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom.

The topic for discussion is a new, neighborhood health initiative that we are currently calling "Healthy Happy Knoxville." The discussion will focus on gathering feedback about the proposed pilot program, answering questions, and gauging interest in participation.

This initiative, which is similar to the previous Healthier TN initiative, focuses on three core areas with the goal of improving health outcomes in Knoxville neighborhoods. Neighborhoods will plan events focused on physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco cessation.

NAC will also welcome the newly appointed members to the council.

All are welcome to [Zoom](#) in with us. Passcode: 256345. Or, you may call in using this number: 1-301-715-8592

If time allows, attendees will be able to ask questions in the webinar, as well.

For more information or if you would like the zoom link for this meeting, contact Debbie Sharp, 215-4382 or [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov).

## **7. Help Us Improve the Newsletter**

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's (ONE) intern from the University of Tennessee, Hayley Howard, is requesting your feedback in an anonymous survey designed to help ONE improve this weekly newsletter.

Please help us by taking a few minutes to fill out this quick [survey](#). Your feedback is valued and greatly appreciated.

## **8. Tennessee Provides Easy Access Vaccine Information**

Are you looking for information on the COVID-19 vaccine? Do you know which phase of the vaccination plan includes you and your family members? Visit [Covid19.tn.gov](https://www.covid19.tn.gov) to find the answers to these questions and many more. The Knox County Health Department is maintaining a Vaccine information page [here](#).

The Tennessee State government is working on allocating both the Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines to counties across the state. While supplies are limited by availability from the Federal government, the state is following a formula to help distribute the vaccine fairly and address the most vulnerable populations first. To see the list of phases and get a better idea of when you might be eligible, check out [Covid-19 Vaccine Phases](#).

Each county's population make-up is different, and allocation timelines for each phase will vary. Click on [Vaccine Eligibility](#) to see when you may be eligible to receive the vaccine in your area.

For more information or if you do not have internet access, please call the State's Public Information Line at 877-857-2945.

## **9. Planning Hosts Meeting to Discuss One Year Plan Update**

It's that time of year, again! Knoxville-Knox County Planning (Planning) seeks your input on updates to Knoxville's One Year Plan, which serves as the foundation to base zoning decisions.

Planning will host a Zoom meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 5:30 p.m., to review and discuss recommended changes to the plan. The meeting will begin with a general presentation on the geographic areas, describe the One Year Plan, explain planned amendments since the 2020 update, and lead into open discussion.

The One Year Plan helps the City of Knoxville and Planning establish land-use goals, objectives, and policies. While these features are set in the long-range plan, one-year updates help tweak goals as Planning moves into the new year.

For more information on the One Year Plan and an update on how to access the Jan. 28 meeting, please visit the [Planning website](#). For additional questions, comments, and

information, please contact Michelle Portier at 215-3821 or [michelle.portier@knoxplanning.org](mailto:michelle.portier@knoxplanning.org).

#### **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](mailto: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.*