

To subscribe to this newsletter via email, go to: <http://eepurl.com/b2Rk9T>

1. Welcome to the New and Improved Neighborhood Advisory
2. Grant Funding Available for City Neighborhood Groups
3. State to Explain Status of Science Building at Knoxville College
4. AmeriCorps Service Ending for Rebecca McIver, Susan Shin
5. Neighborhood Volunteers to participate in TN CAT exercise
6. Miller, Green Promoted at KPD
7. MPC, City Eye Changes in Parking Requirements
8. Public Meeting to Air Proposed Mixed Use District
9. MPC Begins Update of Historic Resource Inventory
10. [Neighborhood and Government Calendar](#) (clickable to new online calendar)

Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.

1. Welcome to the New and Improved Neighborhood Advisory

The “new and improved” Neighborhood Advisory remains heavily oriented toward news of interest to neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations, and will still be published on an “almost weekly” basis.

But some things have changed, and in a way that (we hope) will make this news service more convenient to you. Starting with this issue, the Advisory will be published and emailed via MailChimp, an online service that allows readers to alter their subscriptions at any time. (See the “update preferences” link at the bottom of this email.)

In addition, the [Neighborhood and Government Calendar](#) is now a Google calendar that you can access at any time without having to dig through your email. Staff can now add calendar items in real time, as necessary, rather than having to wait for the next issue. Here are some tips on using the calendar:

*** Click on the calendar image in each week's newsletter to open the calendar in your Internet browser. You can view and print the listings in three different views: week, month and agenda. (Agenda view is closest to our old format.) Click on each event to see more detail, including a map link for a meeting location, and to add an item to your own calendar.

*** If you have your own Google account, you can add the Neighborhood Calendar as a layer in your own calendar in one of two ways.

- In the bottom right corner of the online calendar, click on the “+GoogleCalendar” link. The Knoxville Neighborhood calendar will be added as layer in your calendar.
- Or go to your personal calendar. Look for “other calendars” (usually on the left side of the page) and type in “knoxvilletnneighborhoods@gmail.com” to add the full Office of Neighborhoods calendar layer.

- Either way, the Knoxville Neighborhoods calendar can be viewed or turned off at any time in the list of calendars loaded into your Google account.
- In case you do add the layer, please note that we have the default set NOT to send out reminders for events.

Please email or call Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov to add an event to the calendar or for any technical assistance with the calendar.

2. Grant Funding Available for City Neighborhood Groups

The City of Knoxville is allocating up to \$40,000 for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP) for neighborhood-based projects that would be funded in late 2016 for projects to be carried out during calendar year 2017.

With this round of funding, the Office of Neighborhoods is shifting the NSGP calendar so that the project year matches the calendar year. See the [list of neighborhood groups](#) that won grants in the 2016 round.

Grant funds can be used for projects and programs developed by resident-led, resident-controlled neighborhood associations, tenant associations, homeowners associations, and neighborhood watch groups that serve neighborhoods inside city limits. Start-up neighborhood groups may also apply.

Groups wishing to apply must send a representative to either one of two mandatory pre-application workshops scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, July 16, at United Way, 1301 Hannah Avenue, and for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 21, at Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street.

Applications are due August 29, and awards will be announced in October.

Neighborhood groups can apply for grants ranging from \$500 to \$3,000. Under certain conditions, some projects can be funded up to \$4,500. Grants must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis with the value of volunteer labor and donations.

The [grant guidelines](#) and the [application form](#) are available on the city's website. To have hard copies mailed to you, call the Office of Neighborhoods at 215-4382 (Debbie Sharp) or 215-3232 (David Massey). Also, call Debbie or David if you have questions or just wish to talk about project ideas.

3. State to Explain Status of Science Building at Knoxville College

Residents of Mechanicsville and other citizens concerned about toxic substances in the A.K. Stewart Science Building on the shuttered Knoxville College campus will have a chance to discuss the situation with state environmental officials next month.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will conduct a "public availability session" about the building from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, July 7, at TDEC's Knoxville office, 3711 Middlebrook Pike.

At least a half dozen TDEC officials --- including Steve Goins, director of TDEC's Division of Remediation --- will be on hand to answer questions and take comments from citizens on a one-on-one basis, according to Robin Heriges, deputy director of central office operations for the division.

Posters about environmental concerns and pictures of the interior of the science building will be displayed. "We want to make sure everyone knows the potential risk from this building," Heriges said. "The basic message is if you don't go inside the building, you are fine."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in mid-2014 removed thousands of chemicals from the science building --- chemicals apparently left over from science classes which can be found at most universities across the country. EPA indicated at the time that it had incurred in excess of \$400,000 in cleanup costs that it intended to charge to Knoxville College. The college later lost its state accreditation, and no students are currently enrolled.

EPA also discovered "mercury vapor" during the chemical removal action, Heriges stated. EPA did remove at least one potential source in 2014, but further investigation and testing is needed to look for any remaining material.

Certain compounds of mercury, a heavy metal that can be absorbed through the skin and mucous membranes, can cause damage to the brain, kidneys and lungs, even in very small doses. Mercury vapor can be inhaled. Mercury has not been detected outside the building, Heriges said.

TDEC did require that Knoxville College board the building, which is placarded with "no trespassing" and "danger" signs, Heriges said

Last month, City Public Works Director David Brace, acting as the "public officer" in codes enforcement matters, confirmed earlier emergency repair orders that he issued on 14 separate buildings at the KC campus, located in Mechanicsville. He postponed for 60 days the repair order on the science building and rescinded the orders on two other buildings to give the college trustees until August to present a plan for repairs. For details, see the [May 27 hearing results](#).

At that May 27 city meeting, a TDEC official indicated that TDEC would conduct a hearing to determine if the building should be added to the state's list of contaminated properties --- the state equivalent of a federal Superfund sites --- but now TDEC believes it can take enforcement action without taking the more drastic step.

Next steps are uncertain and may depend on future development. "We know that people are interested in redevelopment (of the Knoxville College site) in some way," Heriges said, and the science building could be made safe enough for a developer to properly dismantle, demolish and ship to a hazardous waste landfill.

In the meantime, citizens should notify the City at 311 or the Knoxville Police Department at 911 if they see anyone entering or leaving the building.

4. AmeriCorps Service Ending for Rebecca McIver, Susan Shin

AmeriCorps members Rebecca McIver and Susan Shin this week are closing out 45 weeks of service to the Knoxville community in general and to Knoxville's neighborhoods in particular.

Becca and Susan spent the last 10 months immersed in the programs and projects of the Office of Neighborhoods and the Community Development Department. They helped produce this weekly newsletter, answered phones, made huge contributions to the success of The Neighborhood Luncheon back in March, and assisted with a myriad of other tasks and projects.

David and Debbie are very grateful for their curiosity, creativeness, hard work, and willingness to give their all to their year of service.

If you worked with Becca or Susan this past year, you still have time to convey your best wishes. Becca can be reached at rmciver@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3456, and Susan can be reached at sshin@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3077. Their last day is Thursday, June 23.

Here are some words from each lady:

Adieu

Hello, my name is Susan Shin and I have been one of the two AmeriCorps members serving with the Office of Neighborhoods in 2015-2016. It has been a great year and I have been able to gain a lot of valuable skills and professional experience. I am very grateful to David Massey and Debbie Sharp for mentoring throughout the year and also to the staff at CAC, Jason, Jessica and Ariel for providing great support.

In August, I will begin working with Habitat for Humanity in San Francisco as a Construction Crew Leader. It will be a big move but I am excited to begin this next chapter of my life. I will always remember the wonderful people I have met this past year and will miss Knoxville and its amazing people. Working for the Office of Neighborhoods has opened up my eyes to how big and diverse Knoxville is as a city. Seeing all the exciting projects and new businesses opening up around the city makes me sad to leave but I hope to come back and visit soon.

Thank you to everyone who I have gotten to know this year. It has really been amazing and it would not have been as good of an experience without all of you. If you would like to stay in touch you can email me at my personal email snails.shin8@gmail.com.

Know Your Neighbor

I second everything Susan has already said. Being able to serve as an AmeriCorps member at the city has been a great experience. I have learned so much not only from David and Debbie, but also from the larger Community Development Department and others throughout the city and county. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in my year here in Knoxville.

I will be starting my Masters of Public Administration at the University of Georgia in the fall. Georgia is home, so making the move back will be easier than Susan's move across country. Knoxville will always hold a special place in my heart after this year and I will try to visit when possible. Feel free to keep in touch: rcmciver@gmail.com.

I will leave you all with one last plea to get your neighborhood thinking about emergency preparedness. Remember: "knowing your neighbor can save your life". – Rebecca McIver

The City of Knoxville's participation in the AmeriCorps program is made possible by CAC AmeriCorps, a program of CAC (the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Agency).

5. Neighborhood Volunteers to participate in TN CAT exercise

Every year, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) stages a "TN CAT" exercise to give local emergency services a chance to train for a region-wide catastrophic emergency.

The TN CAT focus this year will be on East Tennessee and Upper East Tennessee in preparation for the "Battle at Bristol" this fall at Bristol Motor Speedway, where the largest-ever crowd of fans (150,000) will watch the University of Tennessee and Virginia Tech football teams square off.

The drill will play out a scenario in which Knoxville area emergency services are deployed to Bristol, leaving fewer resources for an emergency that subsequently unfolds closer to home.

Volunteers from more than 30 neighborhoods across the city will participate in this virtual exercise, which in turn will help KEMA with the exercise. These volunteers are part of the Emergency Contact Network organized by the Office of Neighborhoods.

If you are interested in learning more about the Emergency Contact Network or helping your neighborhood develop a neighborhood-focused Emergency Preparedness Plan, please contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

6. Miller, Green Promoted at KPD

Kenny Miller, who had been commander of the East Patrol District for the Knoxville Police Department, has been promoted from captain to deputy chief of police.

Miller will be in charge of criminal investigations. He replaces Nate Allen, who is now the chief of police in Decatur, Ala.

Replacing Miller as commander of the East Patrol District is Captain Ron Green, who had been in charge of the Patrol Support Division, which includes the motorcycle unit, speed enforcement, teleserve, neighborhood bike officers, animal control and other functions.

7. MPC, City Eye Changes in Parking Requirements

Which is worse --- a sea of asphalt in commercial parking lots that are rarely completely full --- or an occasional overflow of parking onto side (and possibly residential) streets?

How important is storm water runoff in this equation?

If the City reduces the minimum number of parking spaces required for new developments, would this encourage more people to use KAT and/or ride bicycles?

Would a reduction encourage more neighborhood-friendly development --- and perhaps help repurpose otherwise idle buildings?

These are just a few of the questions that may legitimately be asked by neighborhood organizations as the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and the City of Knoxville consider whether to adopt major changes in the city's parking ordinance, including a reduction in the minimum number of spaces required.

A public meeting on the proposed update will be held at 6 p.m. this coming Thursday, June 23, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County building. See [this MPC page](#) for a copy of the proposed ordinance, a summary and a detailed staff report.

If you are unable to attend the meeting or otherwise wish to submit comments on the proposed ordinance, contact MPC Executive Director Gerald Green via email at gerald.green@knoxmpc.org or via postal mail at MPC, 400 Main Street, Suite 403, Knoxville, TN 37902.

8. Public Meeting to Air Proposed Mixed Use District

With support of neighborhood groups and businesses in the Bearden area, the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) has developed a new Mixed Use District zone for the Bearden Village area.

All neighborhoods, especially those that border major corridors, should take note, because the Bearden Mixed Use zone may serve as a template for other mixed use zones in the future.

MPC staff will host a public meeting to discuss the proposed new zone starting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, in the gymnasium of Bearden United Methodist Church at 4407 Sutherland Avenue.

Staff will review comments received to-date, answer questions about how the proposed zoning applies to renovations and additions to existing development, and receive feedback on the preliminary zoning map. The next public meeting is anticipated for late July. MPC staff is available to meet with individuals and groups as schedules permit.

The Bearden Village Opportunities Plan was originally developed in 2001 with extensive input from the community. The plan for this "urban village" focuses on enhancing pedestrian activity and access, enhancing the sense of place and community, and

building upon Bearden's urban character and unique atmosphere. Recommendations include creating a complete and integrated community of housing, shops, workplaces, schools, parks, and civic facilities within easy walking distance of each other.

In order to realize the Bearden Village concept, new types of development will be necessary. Within the past year, MPC staff has determined that existing development standards are not adequate for residential uses --- and that changes need to be made to existing commercial areas.

The proposed Mixed Use zoning is intended to:

- Provide appropriate areas for mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development
- Group and link places used for living, working, shopping, educating, and recreating to reduce vehicle trips, relieve traffic congestion, and improve the overall quality of life
- Provide a variety of residential housing types and densities
- Integrate new mixed-use development with its surroundings

The current draft of the proposed Mixed Use District zoning is available online:

<http://www.knoxmpc.org/mixed-use/bearden>

9. MPC Begins Update of Historic Resource Inventory

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) recently received a federal Historic Preservation Fund grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission to update the City's Historic Resource Inventory, and the survey is now underway.

The original historic inventory was completed in 1986, but only buildings that were constructed in 1935 or prior were surveyed. The update will focus on buildings constructed between 1935 and 1966. Buildings constructed during this general timeframe are often referred to as "mid-century modern."

The National Park Service has determined that buildings at least 50 years old have achieved sufficient age to be worthy of documenting for MPC and State Historic Preservation Office files. The inventory update will serve as a tool to help ensure that planning and zoning decisions do not harm important historic buildings, streetscapes, and neighborhoods.

The inventory documentation will include a photograph taken from the public right-of-way, as well as mapping and notes on architectural descriptions. The consultant conducting the survey update is Phil Thomason and Associates.

The Sequoyah Hills neighborhood was surveyed last week, and the survey will continue throughout various City neighborhoods until the end of August.

This survey update project is not an effort to designate any property with a historic zoning overlay (H-1) or nominate it to the National Register of Historic Places; however, if you are interested in such a designation or would like more information on this project, please contact Kaye Graybeal, MPC Historic Preservation Planner at 865-215-3795 or via e-mail at Kaye.Graybeal@knoxmpc.org.

10. [Neighborhood and Government Calendar](#) (clickable to new online calendar)

Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this calendar. Call 215-4382.

Visit <http://knoxvilletn.gov/calendar> for a complete list of meetings of various city boards and commissions.

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order 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 prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

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: 5 p.m. Mondays*

*** May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail 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.*