

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 27 – Tuesday, July 26, 2016

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*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.*

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### **1. Last-Chance Workshop for Neighborhood Grants**

Neighborhood groups have one more chance to attend a pre-application workshop under the **Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP)**.

If your organization did not attend the July 16 and July 21 workshops, and if you wish to apply for funding for a 2017 neighborhood project, you must send a representative to the make-up workshop at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 3, in the City County Building.

Register for this workshop by contacting David Massey at [dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-3232. You will then receive instructions on parking and getting into the building after hours.

Proposals are due Aug. 29. 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).

### **2. Kirsten Fox Joins Office of Neighborhoods**

Kirsten Fox, a graduate student at the University of Tennessee, has joined the City of Knoxville as a Social Work Intern in the Office of Neighborhoods.

Kirsten is seeking her Master of Science in Social Work at UT's College of Social Work. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, also from UT. Her work with the City helps fulfill some of her Master's level requirements.

"Within the MSSW program," Kirsten explains, "I am working in the Management, Leadership, and Community Practice concentration, which focuses mostly on leadership skills, non-profit management, and community work. My goals are to later work within

the realms of community development and/or advocacy in fighting for social justice and policy reform.”

She adds: “My favorite hobby is hiking, and my favorite ice cream is butter pecan. I am excited to be here in the Office of Neighborhoods and to learn more about all of Knoxville’s great neighborhoods and their leaders!”

From now through next spring, Kirsten will work approximately 20 hours per week on grant administration and technical support for neighborhood groups that have received grants under the Neighborhood Small Grants Program. She will also assist with the 2017 Neighborhood Conference, the weekly newsletter and a variety of other activities in the Office of Neighborhoods and the Community Development Department.

### **3. How to Build a Strong Neighborhood Organization**

- \*\* Anyone can lead.
- \*\* The first job of a leader is to develop new leaders.
- \*\* Tackle issues, not problems.
- \*\* How you make decisions is more important than the decisions you make.
- \*\* Potential new members will judge your organization on how well your meetings are conducted.
- \*\* Nurture relationships.
- \*\* Social media is great — but is no substitute for face-to-face communication.
- \*\* Don’t bite off more than you can chew.

These are just a few of the 44 bedrock principles of neighborhood organizing that will be covered in the City’s “Building Strong Neighborhood Organizations” leadership training class (BSNO), to be held this fall starting September 1.

The BSNO program was created for participants in and leaders of resident-led, resident-controlled neighborhood groups --- and for individuals who would like to start neighborhood associations in unorganized neighborhoods. Thirty neighborhood leaders have graduated from this class in the past.

The program addresses a wide variety of questions and concerns about starting and sustaining an effective neighborhood organization.

Topics include styles of leadership, identifying and building a neighborhood’s most important asset, how to facilitate effective meetings, recruiting and retaining members, internal and external communications, decision-making, conflict resolution, and strategic planning.

There will be one session per week on Thursday evening beginning September 1 and running through November 10 at the United Way building near downtown. Each of the 11 sessions will be two hours long (6-8 p.m.) with light snacks served beforehand.

The highly participatory sessions will be facilitated by David Massey, who has led the city’s Office of Neighborhoods since 2008. He was president of the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization in the early 1990s and played a role in the successful multi-

neighborhood effort to persuade City Council to deny the zoning required for a garbage incinerator on Baxter Avenue two blocks from Happy Holler.

Participants will receive a textbook, "Building Powerful Community Organizations," along with a 3-ring binder of "how-to" articles on various aspects of creating and sustaining community-based organizations.

There is no charge, but seating is limited. [Apply online](#) or call David Massey at 215-3232, to have a hard copy mailed to you. The deadline for applications is Monday, August 15.

#### **4. Are These Blighted Properties in Your Neighborhood?**

Sixteen properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing (POH) at 9:30 a.m. Friday, July 29.

The Public Officer --- David Brace, director of Public Works for the city --- will hear testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. Testimony can also be made by the property owners, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders, such as lien holders.

The Public Officer then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Failure by the owner to cure the problem may result in the boarding or demolition of a structure, or the cleanup of a dirty or overgrown lot, with costs billed to the owner. A property owner may appeal the Public Officer's decision to the Better Building Board and, ultimately, to Chancery Court.

The properties to be heard for repair and/or demolition orders are 2619 West Blount Avenue (confirmation of emergency repair only order), 3902 Catalpa Avenue, 1022 Cedarwood Street including accessory structure, 4200 Coffey Street (all buildings), 405 West Glenwood Avenue, 409 Higgins Avenue including accessory structure, 2437 Keith Avenue (includes accessory structure and requested approval of boarding), 5820 Little John Lane, 2612 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, 7407 Middlebrook Pike including accessory structure, 115 East Oldham Avenue a/k/a 1608 North Central Street (trailer # 6 only, confirmation of emergency repair only order), 5440 Rucker Street, 2429 Selma Avenue, 2121 Virginia Avenue including accessory structure, and 406 East Woodland Avenue.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, you or a representative of your organization may wish to attend the meeting to submit testimony about the impact of the property on the neighborhood. See the [July 29 POH agenda](#), with details on each property.

One day before the Public Officer Hearing, the Better Building Board will consider an appeal from the owner of 1846 Prospect Place who is contesting the Public Officer's May 27 decision to place a 120-day repair order on the structure. The appeal will be heard by the BBB at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 28. See the [July 28 BBB agenda](#) including details on the property.

**5. Neighborhood and Government Calendar** (clickable to 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*