



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 41 – Tuesday, November 8, 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. How to Lead a Successful Neighborhood Meeting

“How to Lead a Successful Neighborhood Meeting” is the topic for the next session of the “second Thursdays” series of workshops offered by the Office of Neighborhoods.

The workshop will be held on Thursday evening, Nov. 10, at United Way, 1301 Hannah Avenue. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The session will begin promptly at 6 p.m. and end no later than 8 p.m. Snacks will be provided. Bring your own water bottle. If you plan to attend, please notify David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

2. MPC's Green to Speak on Land Use, Regulation

Gerald Green, director of the Metropolitan Planning Commission ([MPC](#)), will speak on land use planning and regulation at a community meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike.

Green will speak for 30 minutes, followed by 45 minutes of Q&A. The meeting is sponsored by the [League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County](#).

3. City to Cut Ribbon on South Waterfront Park, Drive

The official opening of Suttree Landing Park and Waterfront Drive will be observed at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Parking is available in the new surface lot on the south end of the park, which is located at 901 Langford Avenue.

Join Mayor Madeline Rogero, other city officials, and South Knoxville residents to cut the ribbon and officially dedicate the City's first new park to be built in 12 years. The 8¼-acre South Waterfront park includes festival lawns, a children's playground, a put-in for kayakers, accessible river overlooks with picnic tables, and a public riverwalk.

Complementing the park is Waterfront Drive, a new 2,988-foot-long two-lane streetscape with sidewalks, trees and landscaping, as well as specially-designed engineering features to enhance water quality. The park and Waterfront Drive together represent a \$6.6 million City investment in the South Waterfront. Rain date for this event is 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17.

4. Speakers Available to Address Emergencies, Disasters

A natural or man-made disaster can strike at any time and often when we least expect it, so our best defense is knowledge and preparedness.

Help educate yourself and your community about how to be prepared for any emergency by taking advantage of the **Emergency Preparedness Speaker Series** offered by the Office of Neighborhoods.

These agencies are ready, willing and able to send a speaker to your neighborhood or community meeting:

*** **KEMA (Knoxville Emergency Management Agency):** Find out how emergency management works in Knoxville. Who are the key players and what are their functions during an emergency?

*** **American Red Cross of East Tennessee:** Learn how to prepare yourself and your family by creating a family preparedness plan. Red Cross can offer unique strategies that they have seen work first hand.

*** **Knox County Health Department:** Hear tips on handling a health-based emergency and everyday preparedness tips for individuals and organizations.

*** **Knoxville Fire Marshal's Office:** A fire marshal will walk you through the best paths to evacuate your building and show you alternate routes in case your main escape route is inaccessible.

*** **Knoxville Fire Department:** Provides various educational programs including fire extinguisher use, burn prevention, first aid, and CPR.

*** **Knoxville Police Department:** Let KPD share their expertise on dealing with a terrorist-related event, homicide, or mass shootings.

*** **Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB):** Learn about everyday utility safety and what to do with your gas and water lines during an emergency.

Request the individual speaker you find most interesting or go through the whole series for a holistic approach. To get started, contact Wyatt Pless at wpless@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3456. Wyatt is an AmeriCorps member working in the Office of Neighborhoods this year.

5. Walkability Speaker to Dissect Development, Property Taxes

Joe Minicozzi, principal of [Urban 3, LLC](#), and a planner in Asheville, N.C., will speak on the subject "Understanding the True Costs of Development" in the second event of the Knox County Health Department's "Walkability Speaker Series."

The event runs from 5:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at KCHD, 140 Dameron Avenue. Minicozzi, according to the KCHD announcement, "is changing the way we look at growth in our communities. His analysis of property taxes will make you rethink everything you know about development." For more, contact [Liliana Burbano](#), KCHD, 215-5170.

Meanwhile, the regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) has recently developed a video on walkability and related health issues. [See the video](#).

6. City Begins Leaf Pickup

The City of Knoxville's Public Service crews have converted trucks for the leaf pickup season, which runs from November through January.

City crews collect more than 6,000 tons of leaves each year. "The next two months are the most demanding for our staff, who work hard to provide the most convenient services to homes in Knoxville," said Chad Weth, Director of the Public Service Department. "We establish an aggressive schedule in an effort to get as much done before Christmas as possible."

The City currently has 20 trucks and 60 staff members that work on leaf collection routes for an estimated 60,000 households. Collected leaves are hauled to Nature's Best Organics, where they are composted to be reused as mulch.

To make sure your leaves make it off your yard and into the City's trucks, rake your leaves into one continuous row within 5 feet of the curb. That allows the suction devices on the City's trucks to vacuum up leaves most effectively. Also:

- *** Do not rake leaves into the street. Passing cars likely will scatter and crush the leaf pile before it can be vacuumed up by a Public Service crew.
- *** Do not block drainage ditches, mailboxes, sidewalks, etc.
- *** A long, thin row of leaves is better than a short, wide one.
- *** Do not mix brush into leaf piles. The City will not pick up mixed piles of leaves, brush or other refuse because the leaf collection equipment is designed to vacuum up leaves and can be damaged by brush.

Call 311 to receive a general timeline for when your house will be serviced next. Or

visit <https://leafpickup.knoxvilletn.gov> and type in your street address. For general information, visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/publicservice.

7. BZA Decisions Can Impact Your Neighborhood

Twenty-eight properties are on the agenda for next week's meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Established by city ordinance, BZA hears appeals of denials of building permits by the city's Building Inspections Department. The board, consisting of five citizens appointed by the Mayor, meets at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

BZA meets next Thursday, Nov. 17. Addresses on the agenda include 2932 Alcoa Hwy, 2419 N. Central Street, 4603 Chapman Hwy, 1830 Cumberland Avenue, 725 Deery Street, 2745 Jersey Avenue, 2011 Kay Street, 4301 Kingston Pike, 4315 Kingston Pike, 1328 Legacy Cove Way, 1210 Luttrell Street, 5656 Lyons View Pike, 4829 Maple Sunset Way, 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road, 4312 Shawnee Lane, and 2201 Sutherland Avenue.

In addition, the Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) is requesting variances on a host of upcoming improvements or new installations at 617 Cheowa Circle, 2907 Ginnbrooke Lane, 3516 Ginn Road, 0 Holston Hills Road, 1701 Jones Street, 5810 Lyons View Pike, 5072 S National Drive, 2100 Neyland Drive, 4800 Riverplace Drive, 2000 Riverside Drive, 5772 Sandis Lane, and 0 Scottish Pike.

Keep up with how the BZA might impact your neighborhood. Watch for the black and white signs indicating that there is a pending decision on a particular piece of property. Most signs are for Metropolitan Planning Commission issues --- which are also important --- but signs with the word "variance" are BZA items.

See the BZA agenda. Browse to www.knoxvilletn.gov/boards and click on Board of Zoning Appeals.

A neighborhood group that keeps track of BZA will call the Plans Review & Inspections Department at 215-3669 to request and study the paperwork on a particular appeal, decide whether to take a position on the appeal, and then attend the BZA meeting to voice the group's support or objections. A group can also request a postponement to allow time to meet with the applicant.

Decisions of the BZA can be appealed within 15 days of the BZA decision to Knoxville City Council. Appeals of a City Council decision are made to Chancery Court within 60 days of a City Council decision related to BZA.

8. Drought, Poor Air Quality Lead to Ban on Burning

Due to conditions of poor air quality and severe drought, Knox County Air Quality Management (AQM) has issued a mandatory ban on open burning in Knox County.

The City bans open burning of brush all of the time, in part because the Public Service Department collects brush and leaves. County residents who hold open burn permits should postpone burning until further notice. New applications for permits will be suspended until the ban is lifted.

“We sincerely appreciate the public’s cooperation during this ban, which will remain in effect as long as conditions are unsafe for burning,” said AQM Director Lynne Liddington. “We will notify the community as soon as we’re able to lift the ban.”

The ban encompasses camp fires, bonfires, and any and all other types of outdoor open burning. Although AQM does not have the authority to ban recreational burning and food cooking, it is urging both city and county residents not to burn anything.

The haze that has covered much of Knoxville yesterday and today is the result of smoke that drifted into town from fires in neighboring counties. According to one AQM official, anyone with respiratory problems should avoid being outside if possible, because ambient air quality standards have been exceeded this week.

Moreover, citizens are urged to avoid unnecessary trips in their vehicles, to combine trips, to carpool and to take the bus.

Questions may be directed to 865-215-5900 or health@knoxcounty.org.

A division of the Knox County Health Department, AQM works to maintain the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which are designed to protect public health. In addition to issuing residential burn permits, the division monitors fine particulate matter and ozone in the outdoor air; permits air contaminant sources, such as manufacturers and gas stations; performs compliance and complaint investigations; and provides technical and educational services.

[9. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#) (clickable to online calendar)

Call 215-4382 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

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.

Other Calendars

Here are several other online calendars that cover events outside of the neighborhood realm:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There’s More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [Birdhouse Community Center](#)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)
- [Knoxville Mercury](#) (weekly community paper)

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>*
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