

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 31 – Tuesday, August 22, 2017

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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. Reminder: Thursday is Last Day of Early Voting

This Thursday, August 24, is the last chance for early voting in the upcoming Knoxville City Council Primary Election.

[See the early vote schedule and locations.](#) Or call the Knox County Election Commission at 215-2480.

Council incumbents in the District 1,2,3,4 and 6 seats are term limited, resulting in 30 candidates vying for these five open seats. Primary voters in each district will select that district's top two candidates, who will then campaign citywide up to the November 7 General Election.

For voting on Primary Election Day, Aug. 29, voters should go to their designated polling location....but why wait?

Visit www.GoVoteKnoxville.com for a list of candidates and links to their websites and social media accounts. [See last week's newsletter](#) for links to voter guides, candidate interviews, and media coverage of the candidates.

Go Vote!

2. Town Hall East Schedules Ice Cream Social

Town Hall East will hold its annual ice cream social from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, in Tank Strickland Park, located next to the Burlington Branch Library at 4614 Asheville Highway. T.H.E. is promising games, music, family fun --- and free ice cream.

3. Mechanicsville Plans 12th Annual Homecoming

The **Mechanicsville Community Association** (MCA) is making plans for its 12th annual Mechanicsville Homecoming at Danny Mayfield Park on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The day begins at 9 a.m. with a parade that starts on the corner of University and Fifth Avenue and then proceeds down University to the park. Beginning at 11 a.m., the program opens with remarks by various community leaders.

This year's theme is "Empowering Youth to Succeed," and so the program will showcase entertainment by various youth groups. The event also features information booths, food vendors, door prizes, MCA community service awards, and "Battle of the DJ's."

Call MCA President Charles Wright at 865-637-1802 to reserve a spot in the parade or booth space. Nonprofit booths are free, and for-profit booths cost \$60.

"Our annual celebrations are positive," Wright states. "We reconnect with old friends and family members. The atmosphere is peaceful and charged with lots of energy. This event is fun for all who attend. We look forward every year to facilitating this event!"

4. No Issue Next Week

This newsletter will not be published next week. Deadline for the September 5 issue will be 9 a.m. on that day.

5. City to Hold Public Meeting on Traffic Calming

Here is your friendly reminder that the City of Knoxville will hold a public meeting on the new **Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program** (NTSP) at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, at the City's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue.

At this meeting, city officials will describe the new program, address questions, and announce the September launch date.

Details can be found in this [final draft](#) of the Program Guide. If you can, please bring your own copy of this document to the meeting.

A draft of the program was first released in 2016, with residents then offering comments and asking questions about the program. These comments are posted at the NTSP website at www.knoxvilletn.gov/trafficsafety.

The City has now released its response to representative comments and questions. See [City Response to Public Comments and Questions](#).

Those without Internet access can obtain a hard copy of the Program Guide and City Response to Comments via postal mail by calling 215-2113 and leaving a name, mailing address, and phone number.

Meanwhile, questions may be directed to traffic.calming@knoxvilletn.gov, David Massey at 215-3232, or Steve King at 215-4993.

6. Save the Date: March 24, 2018

The City of Knoxville's next Neighborhood Conference will be held Saturday, March 24, 2018, at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Knoxville.

As usual, this will be a day to meet, engage, learn from, and connect with neighborhood leaders and others interested in the quality of life in Knoxville's residential neighborhoods.

If you are new to neighborhood work, this will be a perfect opportunity to learn. If you have been engaged in neighborhood improvements for a long time, this will be a time to connect with others doing the same good work.

It is also a place to find new ideas for your neighborhood; network with city officials and staff; gain valuable information from over 80 information booths; and train new leaders.

7. MPC Recommends Revised Parking Regs, Other Ordinances

At its August 10 meeting, the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) recommended three ordinances for consideration by Knoxville City Council --- new regulations regarding parking standards for commercial developments, a provision for residential uses in the C-3 and C-6 commercial zones, and a limitation on the size of businesses in the C-1 neighborhood commercial zone.

But MPC denied an effort by the Norwood Homeowners Association and a recommendation by MPC staff to change several parcels on Murray Road from medium density residential to low density residential.

Details of the discussion and votes on these topics at the August 10 MPC meeting can be found in the [meeting minutes](#) and in [video coverage](#) of the meeting. See original [agenda package](#), which contains links to documents related to each agenda item, and [previous Neighborhood Advisory coverage of these items](#).

8. Proposed Ordinance Would Require Sidewalks, Alternatives

In an effort to establish formal requirements for sidewalks in new developments and redevelopment projects, staff of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) and City of Knoxville have drafted a proposed "walkability" ordinance.

The ordinance aims to invest in the future of the city by creating greater transportation options for city residents, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and insuring the safety of pedestrians.

The [draft ordinance](#) would require sidewalk construction, or fees in lieu of construction (FIL), for both residential and non-residential development and major redevelopment. Continuous sidewalks on at least one side of the street would be required on any new streets constructed to serve new development and major redevelopment, as well as along existing streets fronting properties being developed or redeveloped.

Under the proposal, sidewalks would be required on both sides of arterial and collector streets. Another aspect of the ordinance is a new push to have sidewalks constructed in Parental Responsibility Zones. These are the areas within approximately one mile of a school in which buses do not provide transportation for students attending that school.

The draft ordinance acknowledges that not all areas are good candidates for sidewalks. There are two avenues to go down if sidewalks are not feasible.

The first involves FIL, which recognizes that not all areas are conducive to sidewalk construction. In those cases, the developer would pay a fee, thus insuring fairness for all. Funds raised from the FIL would go toward sidewalk construction/refurbishment in the City of Knoxville. A second alternative is the construction of a paved greenway or network of greenways within a new subdivision.

Enforcement will entail withholding building permits until sidewalks have been constructed and approved by the City of Knoxville's Department of Engineering or until FIL has been paid.

It is anticipated that the walkability/sidewalk ordinance will be on the City Council agenda sometime this fall.

9. City Celebrates KEEM's Energy Efficiency Upgrades

The City of Knoxville and its partners last week celebrated the success of the Knoxville Extreme Energy Makeover (KEEM) program, which will end this fall after providing free, whole-home, direct-install energy efficiency upgrades to nearly 1,300 lower-income families and educating more than 1,700 residents on how to take control of their utility bills through energy-saving habits.

"KEEM has transformed the landscape for energy efficiency in Knoxville," says Mayor Madeline Rogero. "Making the homes of low-income families more energy efficient is a practical solution that creates long-term benefits for participants. KEEM partners can be proud of the impact this program has had on the Knoxville community."

See full [press release](#) on this TVA-funded program as well as the [KEEM website](#).

10. United Way Seeks VISTA Applicants

Do you or does someone you know want to make a difference in the lives of young boys of color?

Consider the AmeriCorps VISTA position through the [Afterschool Alliance](#) and the [Tennessee Afterschool Network](#) in Knoxville, and join their mission to positively impact the academic and life skills of all children, including young boys of color.

In 2014, President Barack Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. Through the My Brother's Keeper initiative, cities, businesses and nonprofits are taking important steps to connect young people to mentoring, support networks and the skills they need to succeed academically.

The primary project focus of the Tennessee Young Men of Color Mentoring VISTA is to contribute to the My Brother's Keeper milestone of young boys of color reading at grade level by third grade.

To reach the My Brother's Keeper milestone and to support young boys of color, their families and their community, a community engagement strategy and sustainability process needs to be developed and implemented. The Tennessee Young Men of Color Mentoring VISTA will work to develop these strategies and build partnerships.

Apply through the [My AmeriCorps website](#). AmeriCorps VISTA is a full-time, entry-level position. VISTA members serve a one-year service term and receive a modest living stipend.

If you have any suggestions or leads on identifying someone suited for this position or you have any questions, please contact Marie Alcorn, Vice President, Community Engagement & Mobilization, United Way of Greater Knoxville, at 865-521-5565 or alcornm@unitedwayknox.org.

11. 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 the City Law Department at 865-215-2050.

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](#)

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.*