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Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods, 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. South Haven Hosts Community Holiday Potluck

South Haven Neighborhood Association is hosting its annual potluck on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m.-noon at Dogwood Elementary Community School, 705 Tipton Ave.

There will be plenty of food, a performance by Crimson Calamity, and games to entertain the kids. This event is an effort to reach out to the entire community and surrounding neighborhood groups. Bring food, friends, and/or stories to share!

Everyone is welcome!

2. Win a \$75 Neighborhood Achievement Award

What creative, interesting, resourceful, clever projects have your neighborhood organizations done over the past year?

Whether your organization is large or small, well established or brand new, your group is encouraged to apply for the Neighborhood Achievement Award. The awards will showcase accomplishments by neighborhood groups during the 2019 calendar year.

Neighborhood Achievement Awards are recognized every year at [The Neighborhood Conference](#), which will be held on March 28, 2020, at the Knoxville Convention Center. Winners receive \$75 for their Neighborhood Organization to use on future initiatives.

NOTE: The deadline is early this year because we plan to create a short video of neighbors highlighting their neighborhood's accomplishments.

To apply, fill in the [application](#) and email it to Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxville.gov OR mail it to Office of Neighborhoods, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN, 37901, ***no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20***. If you have questions or need a hard copy mailed to you, contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or the above email.

Examples of accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

- Beautification and place-making projects, green spaces and community gardens, and other physical improvements to the neighborhood;
- Projects, events, and activities that focus on connecting neighbors with one another, such as street fairs, potlucks, home tours, holiday celebrations, and neighbors helping neighbors;
- New or ongoing communication efforts such as newsletters, social media, and phone tree networks; and
- Activities involved in launching, reviving, or strengthening a neighborhood group.

We are excited to see what neighborhoods have been working on throughout 2019!

3. The Neighborhood Challenge is Back

What is The Neighborhood Challenge? A fundraiser for The Neighborhood Conference, five local breweries across the city will donate a percentage of the proceeds from an evening of sales to [The Neighborhood Conference](#). Pick the brewery closest to you, bring your neighbors, and enjoy the evening.

Come out between 5-10 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at the participating brewery in your area: Abridged Beer Co. – West, Hexagon Brewing Co. – North, Last Days of Autumn Brewing – East, Pretentious Beer Co. – Downtown, and Printshop Beer Co. – South.

Last year, almost \$1000.00 was raised by all five breweries and Abridged Beer Co. was the winner. Who will win this year?

If you don't drink or cannot get out that night, that is okay; donations are accepted!

Gather your neighbors, and show support in your region. It is a challenge between North, South, East, West, and Downtown. Whether through beer sales or donations, the neighborhood region that raises the most funds will be recognized at the Neighborhood Conference.

[The Neighborhood Conference](#) is scheduled for March 28, 2020, is free, and open to the public. Each year, approximately 600 people attend the event, which provides educational sessions and networking opportunities. Representatives from City departments are on hand to provide information and answer questions.

The Neighborhood Conference is supported by sponsorships and City funding. For more information, visit the City's [website](#) or contact Courtney Durrett at cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-3456.

Keep your eyes peeled for Neighborhood Challenge flyers, coming soon. Help us promote the event by sharing with your neighbors and your neighborhood's social media pages, and invite your friends and neighbors out for the Neighborhood Challenge on Feb. 12!

4. Nourish Knoxville Offers Double Up Food Bucks

[Nourish Knoxville](#) accepts SNAP benefits at all of their farmers' markets. Come to Market Square Farmers' Market in December and stop by the information booth on the corner of Market St. and Central Ave. to double your benefits, up to \$20 per day. This doubled amount can be spent on any fresh produce at the market. These perks don't expire: If you can't use it all in one day come back and spend it the next time!

December Dates for the downtown Market Square Farmers' Market include:

- Dec. 14
- Dec. 21

Healthy food is important; help spread the word about this valuable resource.

5. Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission to Meet on Dec. 12

The Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission will hold their monthly meeting, this Thursday, Dec. 12, at 1:30 p.m., in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

This month's agenda includes 33 items for review. To view the full agenda and see if any items might impact your neighborhood, visit the [Planning Commission's Dec. 12, Agenda](#).

The Planning Commission reviews cases in both the City and the County; City items are listed based on City Council district while County is listed as County Commission district. Take a look and see what is happening in your area.

For more information on the Planning Commission and Knoxville-Knox County Planning, visit their [website](#).

6. Census 2020, Why Is It Important?

Why should you fill out your Census form?

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States, creating national awareness of the importance of the Census and its valuable statistics.

The decennial census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the Constitution. It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal

funds annually to support states, counties, and communities' vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy.

Our community receives federal funds, grants, and support to the state, counties and communities, which is based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Our community benefits the most when the census counts everyone.

Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy. Businesses use Census Bureau data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores; and these create jobs. Local government officials use the census to ensure public safety and plan new schools and hospitals. Real estate developers and city planners use the census to plan new homes and improve neighborhoods.

For every person we miss counting, our community loses federal dollars. Spread the word; every person counts!

The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) is also hiring for help with conducting the 2020 Census. They offer flexible hours, weekly pay, and competitive wages. If you are looking to earn some extra money in the spring, consider applying to work with the Census Bureau.

7. City Hosts 13th Annual Tour De Lights

Looking for a fun way to celebrate this holiday season? If you enjoy the Christmas Parade and checking out the downtown and local neighborhood decorations, you will love [Tour De Lights](#).

Hosted by [Bike Walk Knoxville](#) and [Visit Knoxville](#), Tour De Lights is a 5 mile easy bike ride through the Fourth and Gill Neighborhood and back into Market Square. Riders dress up in holiday attire, decorating bicycles with lights, garland, and the like. Come out and ride or join the fun by watching the holiday bikers as they go by.

This year's ride will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14. Bikers need to line up at 5:30 p.m., at the corner of Willow Ave. and Patton St., in the Old City. The ride takes about an hour and will end with a costume contest in Market Square.

If you plan to participate in the costume contest, please arrive in time to register from 4 to 4:30 p.m., under the Jackson Ave. Bridge. All costume contestants must register.

The [13th Annual Tour De Lights](#) is a fun event for all ages. Decorate your bike, throw on your best holiday sweater and join the fun!

8. 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 or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours before the meeting you wish

to attend. For an English 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: 5 p.m. Mondays*

*** 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.*