

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 2 – Tuesday, January 14, 2020

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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. Chilhowee Neighbors Host Community Café

Chilhowee Park Neighborhood Association invites East Knoxville neighbors to participate in roundtable discussions about opportunities and issues that matter to you! The Community Café will be held Thursday, Jan 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Perk City, 3229 E. Magnolia Ave.

During the Community Café, neighbors will gather in groups of 4-5 and spend about 20 minutes discussing a question posed by the facilitator. After 20 minutes, groups break up and reassemble in different configurations to address a new question. After several rotations, the facilitators ask participants to share insights or other results from their conversations with the rest of the large group.

The purpose of a Community Café is to help start conversations that evoke positive change, show the similarities in groups, and illuminate the priorities neighbors have to make their community the best it can be.

If you wish to participate in this event, email Bailey Walker at bwalker@knoxvilletn.gov to reserve your spot.

2. Deadline for Neighbor of the Year Nominations Is This Friday!

Don't miss the opportunity to give an amazing neighbor a shout out! Nominations for the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year close this Friday, Jan. 17.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile to make their neighborhood a better place? Perhaps they welcome new neighbors, volunteer to help neighbors in distress or work tirelessly in service to the entire neighborhood and/or neighborhood organization. Or, maybe, they make everyone feel included.

The Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award is presented annually to a City of Knoxville resident who has devoted time and talent in service to their neighbors and neighborhood. The award is meant to honor someone who makes a positive contribution at the neighborhood level without seeking recognition for their service.

All nominees will be recognized at The Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, March 28, at the Knoxville Convention Center, 701 Henley St.

Fill out the nomination [form](#) and return it to Debbie Sharp, either by email at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or by mail to: Office of Neighborhoods, City of Knoxville, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901.

If you have questions, you may also call 215-4382. To learn more about previous winners, visit the [website](#).

3. OON Thanks 2020 Neighborhood Conference Sponsors

The Office of Neighborhoods would like to take the opportunity to thank the sponsors who have donated thus far to the 2020 Neighborhood Conference:

[Waste Connections](#) is a Platinum Sponsor at \$5,000.

[Home Federal Bank](#) is a Silver Sponsor at \$1,500.

Our Bronze Sponsors at \$500 each are: Cannon & Cannon, Dover Properties, Elizabeth Eason Architecture, Hatcher Hill, Knoxville Area Association of Realtors, Mast General Store, and Sanders Pace Architecture.

Thanks to the support from our generous sponsors, The Neighborhood Conference is free to neighborhood participants. The event will be held on Saturday, March 28, from 8-2 p.m., at the Knoxville Convention Center, 701 Henley St. It is a day filled with networking, honoring hard work, getting inspired, attending workshops, meeting new people, and much more. The City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods could not do this without these sponsorships.

A HUGE thank you goes out to each one of them. If you happen to see the folks that run or work at these businesses, please thank them as well.

4. Potential Leaders Are Wanted For BSNO

Are you an active neighbor, neighborhood leader, or dedicated neighborly friend? Are you interested in building skills and learning new ways to better work with your neighborhood and become a dynamic leader?

If you said, “yes and yes,” then the [Building Strong Neighborhood Organizations](#) (BSNO) leadership workshop is for you!

That’s right! The Office of Neighborhoods will again be hosting this intensive leadership workshop in Spring 2020!

BSNO covers a wide range of topics designed to equip neighbors with the tools to start and sustain effective neighborhood organizations. The workshop is helpful to neighborhood leaders, active neighbors, and anyone looking to enhance their skills in community organizing. Topics covered include: styles of leadership, identifying and utilizing a neighborhood’s most important asset, how to facilitate effective meetings, recruiting and retaining members, internal and external communications, decision-making, conflict resolution, strategic planning, and more.

This year’s workshop will be a 12-week series, running Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., starting April 16 and ending July 9 (skipping the week of July 4). There is limited space, so reserve your spot now. To register, contact Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov.

5. CAC VITA Program Offers Free Tax Assistance

Did you know you may qualify for free tax assistance? The L.T. Ross Building Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax preparation for City of Knoxville Employees, Retirees and Families.

VITA is offered to low- or moderate-income individuals and families on a first come, first served basis. VITA taxes are prepared with the help of highly qualified, IRS-certified volunteers. VITA volunteers are experienced at filing most types of basic tax returns, and many are current or retired business, educational, or financial professionals. Many families qualify for VITA tax assistance; check benefits.gov to see if you qualify.

The L.T. Ross VITA program runs from Wednesday, Jan. 22, through Wednesday, April 15, at the L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Ave., on the following days and times:

- Mondays & Wednesdays: 3-7 p.m.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Saturdays (February only): 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, call 546-3500. For more information and other appointment only free tax sites, visit <http://www.knoxcacvita.org/>.

VITA is completely free and confidential. Tax returns are filed electronically, unless otherwise specified.

6. Community Development Hosts Meeting to Discuss Consolidated Plan

Come out and have a voice in the City of Knoxville [Community Development Department’s](#) Five Year Consolidated Plan for program years 2020-2024.

Join us Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m., at the John T. O'Connor Center, 611 Winona St., to discuss how the City can best spend Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships (affordable housing) grants, and Emergency Solutions Grants (homeless services) programs, to address community needs and priorities.

City staff will present a summary of information collected from this public/citizen participation and consultation process, a summary of housing-needs data, and draft priority goals and strategies that will guide the types of programs that HUD funds may be used for, beginning in July 2020. The City will also share a timeline for further public participation, an outline of a process for the development of an Analysis of Impediments for Fair Housing Choice, and take comments from meeting participants.

Come out, share your input, and have a hand in creating a better Knoxville. For more information, contact Linda Rust at lrust@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2962. It is anticipated that the draft Consolidated Plan will be made available for public review and a 30-day public comment period in early April 2020.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, your feedback is still appreciated. Information presented at the meeting will be made available on Wednesday, Jan. 22, on the City's website www.knoxvilletn.gov/development.

The O'Connor Center is wheelchair accessible. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact the City of Knoxville's ADA Coordinator, Stephanie Brewer Cook at 215-2034 or scook@knoxvilletn.gov no less than 72 business hours (3 business days) prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

The City of Knoxville is committed to meeting the needs of non-English speaking residents. If you have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and want to request interpretation services, please contact the City of Knoxville's Title VI Coordinator, Tatia M. Harris at tharris@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2831, at least 48 hours (2 days) prior to the meeting.

7. HZC and BZA Meet This Thursday

Five properties are on the agenda for this week's meeting of the **Historic Zoning Commission (HZC)**, meeting on Thursday, Jan 16, at 8:30 a.m., in the Small Assembly Room, City County Building, 400 Main St.

Properties to take note of are: 1321 Harvey Rd., 1800 Jefferson Ave., 2301 Jefferson Ave., and 115 James Agee St. See the [agenda](#) for more information.

The **Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)** hears certain appeals of denials of building permits by the City's Plans Review and Inspections Department. An applicant can request a variance from the Zoning Code requirements or can appeal an administrative official's interpretation of the Zoning Code.

BZA will meet Thursday, Jan 16, at 4 p.m., in the Small Assembly Room, City County Building, 400 Main St.

The [agenda](#) includes the following petitions: 4204 Bruhin Rd., 1610 Forest Ave., 3848 Taliluna Ave., 6907 Stone Mill Dr., 1100/1104/1110/1114 Clinch Ave., 6529 S. Northshore Dr., and 710 N. Cherry St.,

Worth noting: the next BZA meeting has been moved to Friday, Feb. 21, in the Main Assembly Room.

8. City Offices Close to Commemorate MLK Holiday

The City of Knoxville, including the Office of Neighborhoods, will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20, to commemorate the life and mission of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For a list of upcoming city events and ways to celebrate the life of Dr. King, visit the [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission](#).

City offices will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Trash and recycling schedules will run as normal with regularly scheduled pickup. Additionally, the City's five recycling centers will remain open; however, the Goodwill Donation Center will not be staffed to accept donations. The City's Solid Waste Management Facility, 1033 Elm St., will be closed Saturday, Jan. 18 to Monday, Jan. 20.

Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) will run on MLK Day, but on KAT's Saturday schedule. The Knoxville Station Customer Service Counter will be open from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on that day. For the full KAT schedule and stops near you, check out their [webpage](#).

9. Keep Knoxville Beautiful to Speak at Neighborhood Meetings

[Keep Knoxville Beautiful \(KKB\)](#) is interested in speaking to your neighborhood organization. They would like the opportunity to attend one of your neighborhood's spring meetings to speak about programs, resources and upcoming events.

KKB helps educate folks about litter prevention, and they have a variety of resources and programs that can help you keep your neighborhood clean and beautiful.

Don't forget: KKB has started the ["Adopt a Road"](#) program for city streets. Is your neighborhood willing to adopt an area and keep it clean? This is a great benefit to your neighborhood and the surrounding area.

Please contact Alanna McKissack at alanna@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org or 521-6957 to get KKB on your neighborhood meeting's agenda. Let them know if you would like them to talk about additional topics such as, litter prevention, waste reduction, graffiti abatement, and/or neighborhood beautification.

10. Census 2020 Is Hiring

In the next five weeks, the United States Census Bureau will hire several thousand people for various full-time and part-time jobs in this area. Members of the Census team will help ensure that everyone who lives in Knoxville and Knox County is counted. Census data is directly related to the federal dollars our area receives to build roads, schools, infrastructure, etc.

Interested? You can apply from your smart phones from this link: www.2020census.gov/jobs. When applying, be sure to write down your password as it cannot be retrieved later.

Apply now, as the clearance process can take up to six weeks.

Participating in Census 2020 is very important. Visit the City's [website](#) for additional information.

11. 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: 12 p.m. Fridays.*

*** 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.*