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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-03-17>

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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. KCHD Launches Hotline to Address Concerns Over COVID-19

Amid growing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) has launched a COVID-19 Public Information Line for residents to gain information on the disease.

To call the hotline, dial 215-5555 or the toll-free number at 888-288-6022. The COVID-19 Public Information line is available from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. A high call volume is expected; please call again, if you receive a busy dial. People with concerns about their health should contact their health care provider.

For the latest on Knox County COVID-19 updates, a list of helpful facts, and other helpful information related to the outbreak, visit [KCHD Coronavirus Disease](#).

2. Mayor Kincannon Declares a State of Emergency

On Monday, March 16, Mayor Indya Kincannon declared a State of Emergency for the City of Knoxville. The Mayor says she is enacting a provision in the City's charter to give the City the flexibility to take further legal and budgetary action in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

And, in an effort to protect the most vulnerable during this pandemic, all senior centers in Knox County and the City (including all senior programs held at Knoxville Parks and Recreation Centers) are cancelled until further notice.

Tonight's St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl planned for the Old City and other downtown establishments has been cancelled.

Mayor Kincannon has issued the following recommendations for food and drink establishments:

- Encourage all restaurants to utilize takeout and delivery services.
- Limit seating to 50 percent of capacity.
- Separate occupied tables by at least six feet.

At the time of this release the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Operations Center is partially activated. The City of Knoxville, the Knox County Health Department and Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, along with countless social service agencies, are working together during this crisis.

All "non-essential" city meetings are being postponed at this time. For an updated response to the City of Knoxville's response to COVID-19, visit the [City website](#) and [Knox County Health Department website](#).

Please keep in mind, this is a rapidly changing situation that could likely demand further action.

3. To Meet or Not to Meet: What Should Neighborhood Orgs Do?

Do you have a regularly scheduled neighborhood meeting coming up? Is your neighborhood in the process of tackling an important issue? With the growing concerns over COVID-19, you may be vacillating on the decision of whether or not to meet.

Here are some ways to have important discussions with your neighborhood group while avoiding the spread of COVID-19:

- Limit the numbers: If you decide meeting in person is necessary for your neighborhood, consider limiting the numbers in the group and maintaining a distance of 6 feet between people. For example, you could have a board meeting instead of a full neighborhood meeting or send an email asking for a committee of 10 or less to meet and discuss the topic.
- Think about having your meeting electronically: [Facebook Live](#) is an excellent tool. The neighborhood president or a tech-savvy member can log in and start the live stream. Any members watching will have the opportunity to submit questions and make comments in real time for that member to address.

Use Skype, Zoom, Facetime or other video chat services to hold "face to face" discussions from the comfort of their own homes.

- An old fashioned email chain can also be an answer. Send an email out with the topics you plan to discuss, the agenda, and ask neighbors to all come online at the regularly scheduled meeting time. Have everyone hit "reply all" and send in

comments, questions, etc. Utilizing this same idea also works well in a Google Doc, which you can update live and chat while working through the document.

In times like these, many have to make tough decisions, including canceling your neighborhood meeting. To meet or not to meet is entirely up to you. Look at the [CDC Guidelines](#) to avoid the risks of spreading disease. Stay informed on the ever-changing discussion about the virus. Act in the best interest of your neighbors—the healthy ones and those who are most vulnerable.

4. NAC Has One Vacancy

The [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC) is seeking an engaged neighbor to fill an “At Large” seat vacancy.

Consisting of 15 members, the NAC has two representatives from each of the six City Council districts plus three “At Large” representatives. The Council meets every second Wednesday of the month, excluding July and December, at 4:30 p.m., at the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine St., to discuss important neighborhood and city issues.

The purpose of the NAC is to:

- Give advice and feedback on the programs and policies of the Office of Neighborhoods
- Bring neighborhood issues and concerns to the attention of the Mayor and City Administration
- Propose to the Administration responses and solutions to address these concerns
- Serve as a sounding board for city initiatives and proposals affecting neighborhoods

If you are an active neighbor who is willing to help represent the goals and needs of your neighbors across Knoxville, consider applying. All NAC members must be willing and able to help distribute information to and from the community, attend the monthly meetings, and serve at the appointment of the Mayor.

Candidates for the at-large vacancy can reside anywhere within the City of Knoxville limits. The term will run through December 2021. If you are interested in applying to become a member of the NAC, please submit your application no later than **Friday, March 27.**

Please note, while NAC members do advise and provide input to the Mayor and City administration, they do not advise City Council, Knoxville-Knox County Planning or other elected bodies.

If you are interested in applying, please visit [Appointments to the Neighborhood Advisory Council](#), and submit the [Neighborhood Advisory Council Application Form](#).

Any questions can be directed to Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382.

5. Fourth Annual Wiffleball Tournament Scheduled for June 13

Mark your calendars! On Saturday, June 13, neighborhood organizations will come together to compete in a friendly game of Wiffleball to see who will win the top honor.

Registration for the tournament will open in May. Watch for more details regarding registration deadlines for your neighborhood/team, new rules, and the day's agenda. In the meantime, assemble your teams and start practicing!

Past winners:

- 2017 – Westwood Homeowners Association
- 2018 – Westwood Homeowners Association
- 2019 – Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association

Who will bring home the trophy for 2020?

6. Neighborhoods Seek Treasure Hunt Items

Community Television is hosting the second annual Neighborhood Treasure Hunt and Online Auction to support neighborhood groups. Neighbors, now is the time to search your attics and storage areas for treasures to donate between now and mid-April. The live auction will be on Friday, May 1, from 5-8 p.m.

All proceeds from the sale of your donated items will benefit your favorite neighborhood. Donate items now at www.CTVKnox.org/hunt.

For more, please contact Kevin Jeske-Polyak at 215-4352 or kevin@ctvknox.org.

7. BZA and HZA Meet this Week

[The Historic Zoning Commission \(HZA\)](#) meets this Thursday, March 19, 8:30 a.m. in the Main Assembly Room, City County Building, 400 West Main Street.

Notice the meeting has been moved to the Main Assembly Room to practice social distancing.

The commission will grant Certificates of Appropriateness to the following addresses: 0 N. 3rd Ave. (Construction of house); 831 Deery St. (Installation of solar panels); 215 Sixteenth St. (Porch reconstruction, exterior rehabilitation, rear addition); 325 Union St. (Installation of awnings); 1355 Armstrong Ave. (Garage door replacement); 4002 Tazewell Pk. (Construction of new house).

The [agenda](#) is available on [Knoxville-Knox County Planning's](#) website.

[Board of Zoning Appeals](#) (BZA) also meets this Thursday, March 19, 4 p.m., in the Small Assembly Room, City County Building, 400 Main St, Knoxville, TN.

BZA will consider the following petitions: 4110 Sevierville Pk.; 1606 E. Glenwood Ave.; 1425 Woodbine Ave.; 2510 E. Glenwood Ave.; 1604 E. Glenwood Ave.; 4204 Van Dyke Dr.; 4450 Candora Ave.; 8320 E. Walker Springs Rd.; 400 Goodys Ln.; 2018 Clinch Ave.

The [agenda](#) is available online.

The next HZA and BZA meetings are scheduled for April 16, 2020.

8. City Seeks Input on N. Central St. Corridor Project

Last year, the City finished a streetscape project on N. Central St., from Depot. Ave. on through the intersection at Broadway and north to Woodland Ave. This project, designed to make the corridor friendlier to runners, walkers, bikers, bus riders, drivers, businesses, and those who otherwise recreate on the N. Central St. Corridor, improved sidewalks, bike lanes, beautification, and other important streetscape features.

If you frequent the N. Central St. Corridor, the City would like to hear from you!

While many see the project as a visual improvement to the Central streetscape, the City would like to know users' feelings on safety improvements and their impact on accessibility and recreation usage in the area.

Please take this quick 3 minute [survey](#), and let us know how you feel. Of note, the survey has been updated to help assess more specific data for the project. **The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, March 27.**

To learn more about the Central Ave. Corridor Project and see an aerial view of the area in action, visit [North Central Street Project](#).

9. WATE Hosts Project Grad's Laptop Telethon

[Project GRAD](#) is a national education program that focuses on improving student achievement and graduation rates, college and career path readiness, and college completion rates.

In Knoxville, the program is made up of students who attend Fulton and Austin-East high schools. When students complete the program, they receive a \$4,000 scholarship; however, there isn't enough in the budget for a necessary college tool: a computer. In 2018, the first [WATE GRAD Scholars Laptop Telethon](#) raised \$41,867, and 88 laptops were distributed to college-bound students.

The 2020 Telethon is Thursday, March 26, from 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. You can donate on the day of the Telethon or in advance by going [online](#) or by sending check.

If you want to pay by check, please make your checks payable to Project GRAD Knoxville and mail to:

Project GRAD Knoxville
1100 Marion St., Suite 100
Knoxville, TN 37921

For more information, call 525-4030 or email info@projectgradknoxville.org.

10. 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 scCook@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.*