

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 13 – Tuesday, March 31, 2020

To subscribe to this newsletter via email, fill out this form at <http://eepurl.com/b2Rk9T>. You will then receive an automated email. Reply to this automated email to secure your free subscription.

Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-03-31>

1. COVID-19: How Can You Help?
2. OON Requests Calendar Updates
3. 2020 BSNO Leadership Class Canceled
4. NAC Cancelled for April
5. Parks & Rec Announces Closures
6. Solid Waste Drop-Off Facility To Close on Saturdays
7. Notice For Neighborhoods Hosting Food Truck Vendors
8. Knoxville Chamber Seeks Input
9. Let's All Take Care
10. [Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#) (click link for online calendar)

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.

[Like us on Facebook:](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods) <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods>

1. COVID-19: How Can You Help?

COVID-19 has brought on changes for most, hardships for many, and impacted day-to-day life for all. Whether you are relying on community support to make it through this time or looking for ways to give that support to those who need it, this is an important time to rely on each other.

How can you help? With the Knox County Health Department's "Safer at Home" Order, it can be difficult to know how best to stay safe, support your neighbors, and support your Knoxville community. If you are looking for ways to help during this crisis, check out the list below:

- Adopt a Neighbor – Build a support network in your neighborhood. Whether it is just asking the person next door if you can pick something up for her at the store, organizing a neighborhood-wide social distancing scavenger hunt, or creating a neighborhood-wide network of support to connect those in need with those willing to give, working together as a neighborhood can make a huge difference.

Many neighborhood organizations have come together to find creative ways to support each other. If you are interested in getting involved or would like to initiate a way to help neighbors in your area, contact Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov or call 215-3232.

To see some of the fun ways neighborhoods have come together to support each other, check out the [Office of Neighborhoods Facebook Page](#). If your neighborhood has started an initiative, please let us know so we can share it!

- Volunteer – There are several ways to volunteer and support your community while still practicing effective social distancing. [Volunteer East Tennessee](#) has put together a COVID-19 Response team and is working closely with local non-profits to actively update community needs. Check out the website to see direct and indirect service opportunities, sign up, and help in whatever way you feel most comfortable.
- Donate – United Way of Greater Knoxville has established a [COVID-19 Response Fund](#) to collect and reallocate money to non-profit organizations offering vital services to those impacted by COVID-19. To donate, click the link or text “KNOXCOVID” to 41444.
- Support Local Business – Many local restaurants, grocery stores, and other essential businesses are still providing to-go, curbside, and online services. Help keep your local favorites afloat by getting to-go orders, utilizing curbside options, and --if you are able--tipping extra. You can even tip service staff every time you make a drink or enjoy a favorite snack at home by visiting this [link](#). Many businesses are also selling gift cards, virtual tastings, and other fun ways to social distance together and still support your community of service.
- Practice Social Distancing – The most important thing you can do to help yourself and your community now is to be a responsible citizen and practice effective social distancing. This means keeping six feet between you and your neighbor, fellow shopper, park visitor, etc. to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. We are responsible for helping to flatten the curve and keep COVID-19 at bay. While this may not seem like much, keeping our distance can make a huge impact for medical staff, essential employees on the front line, and the older community members who are most at risk.
- Talk to the Kids – Make sure the children in your neighborhood understand the necessity for social distancing and the impact their choices can have on their parents, grandparents, and elderly neighbors. Make it personal: if kids feel they are keeping their distance from friends to help keep Grandma safe, they may have a better understanding of why it is important.

How have you been supporting your community? If you know of other ways to help each other through this time, let us know! The Office of Neighborhoods is working to share inspiring stories and ways to fill in the gaps through our Facebook page and Neighborhood Advisory. We would love to hear from you!

If you need support during this time, the City of Knoxville’s 211 call center is your access point for all social service connections and resources. Dial “211” or 215-4211 and an administrator will connect you with the social service organization you need.

For resources, you can check out two different flyers on the Office of Neighborhoods’ [website](#). See the second paragraph of the home page. If you are immigrant and you

don't find the answers to your unique situation, please take a moment to fill out this [survey](#). We are continually updating our flyers to add resources as we learn about them.

Thank you for supporting each other. We are all one Knoxville, even at a distance; it is up to each of us to help our neighbors throughout the city get through this difficult time.

2. OON Requests Calendar Updates

Our [Neighborhood Calendar](#) is a great place to find information about upcoming neighborhood and city events. We are happy to post your group's meetings, special events, and other neighborhood-oriented happenings on our calendar (or on the [OON Facebook page!](#)).

In accordance to recommendations by the [CDC](#) and the [Knox County Health Department](#), many events are being canceled or postponed. If your neighborhood's event is canceled or postponed, please let us know so we can keep our calendar up to date.

Send updates to Bailey Walker at bwalker@knoxvilletn.gov.

3. 2020 BSNO Leadership Class Canceled

Due to the growing concern over COVID-19 and the "Safer at Home" order requiring all gatherings to limit participation to ten people or less, the Office of Neighborhoods (OON) has cancelled the [Building Stronger Neighborhood Organization](#) (BSNO) leadership training class.

BSNO, which was planned to start Thursday, April 16, and run through Thursday, July 9, generally brings in 20 to 30 neighborhood leaders and is based on interactive group discussion. While the OON considered limiting class size and other options, we decided it was best for everyone's safety to cancel the class at this time.

The OON hopes to hold a BSNO workshop series in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021. Stay tuned!

4. NAC Cancelled for April

With the current "Safer at Home" order in place, the Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting has also been cancelled for Wednesday, April 8.

If this situation persists into May, the Office of Neighborhoods will look at providing the meeting via Zoom or other online video chat options.

We hope you are all staying healthy and safe.

5. Parks & Rec Announces Closures

City of Knoxville parks are currently open for PASSIVE USE only. This means that park restrooms, athletic fields/courts, and playgrounds are currently closed until further

notice. You may still use City parks to walk, run, bike, exercise, and other individual activities while maintaining social distancing.

Here are some best practices to follow when enjoying our parks:

- Do not use parks or trails if you feel sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness.
- Follow the [CDC's guidance](#) on personal hygiene prior to and after visiting parks or trails.
- Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms and water fountains.
- Share the trail and warn other trail users of your presence when you pass.
- Keep at least six feet between you and other persons.

For updates, check out Parks and Rec's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

6. Solid Waste Drop-Off Facility To Close on Saturdays

Starting Wednesday, April 1, additional COVID-19 public-safety precautions will go into effect at the City's Solid Waste Management Facility, 1033 Elm St.

The most noticeable change will be that the drop-off waste transfer station and next-door Household Hazardous Waste Facility will be closed on Saturdays. The popular "Free for City Residents Day" program, which waives drop-off fees on the first Saturday of each month for City of Knoxville residents and attracts a long line of customers, will be suspended until the Coronavirus spread is a much lower risk.

Also, the Solid Waste Management Facility will no longer accept cash payments. Customers will need to pay by debit or credit card.

Lastly, the "reuse shelf" at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility is being temporarily discontinued.

"These are necessary safeguards to protect both the public and City Solid Waste Division employees," Public Service Director Chad Weth said. "We're still open to help small businesses and homeowners manage their waste. But unfortunately, to adhere to public-health social-distancing requirements, we've had to forego our usual face-to-face interaction with customers.

For hours of operation and more details, visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/solidwaste.

7. Notice For Neighborhoods Hosting Food Truck Vendors

On March 23, 2020, the Knox County Health Department issued a "Safer at Home" order, instructing all citizens to stay home and practice physical distancing to aid in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Since the order went into effect, folks have come up with creative ways to support local businesses. This support is valuable and encouraged but not if it's at the risk of public

health. If your neighborhood plans to host a food truck, please follow social distancing by enacting the following practices.

- Neighbors should not be congregating in a social manner around the food truck and dining together. Inviting a food truck to come to your neighborhood should not be considered a special social event or neighborhood block party.
- Think of the food truck like a delivery truck. Only ONE person from each family should go to the food truck to pick up the food. The food should be taken to your own home to be consumed.
- Each food truck should have one person outside of the unit to make sure that people are not congregating. The food trucks should have cones or other types of markings spaced 6 feet apart to show where customers need to be in line.
- Food trucks should be providing individual condiments. You should not share from a central self-service location.
- Food trucks should NOT provide customers cutlery or napkins with the food.
- Please do not go outside to get food from the food truck if you are not feeling well.
- Remember to disinfect your hands after completing the transaction of food and money and before eating.

Proper interaction with food trucks during this time is a win-win. However, if the food truck community and the neighborhoods are not able to help in the efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, there may be an order to stop all mobile vending until the “Safer at Home” order has been lifted.

Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone healthy and safe in our community! If you have questions, please contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

8. Knoxville Chamber Seeks Input

Knoxville Chamber is analyzing the economic impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on Knoxville-area industries, businesses, business owners and workers. They have created an economic impact [survey](#) to gather information and help develop a clearer picture of what needs to be done for our local and regional economy to rebound. Your input will help the Chamber gauge which industries are most affected and how support can best be utilized in the near future.

9. Let's All Take Care

With many events being cancelled -- places we enjoy closing, normal life being uprooted, not knowing the answers in a time of uncertainty -- now is the time to work together. Everyone handles things differently. Please be kind to yourself, take care of yourself, be patient with each other, reach out to people, ask for the support that you may need. Take a breather. Try something different and creative.

Find what works for you to survive the unknown, right now. We will need you when this is over!

As Mr. Rogers said, “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” Keep social distance, keep washing your hands, keep in your house whenever possible, and keep digging for the positive silver lining! It’s out there.

[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.*