

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 16 – Tuesday, April 28, 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. Treasure Hunt & Online Auction Postponed**

[Community Television of Knoxville \(CTV\)](#)'s annual [Neighborhood Treasure Hunt & Online Auction](#) has been postponed from Friday, May 1, to Friday, June 5.

It's not too late to get your neighborhood's treasures donated and entered into the auction. You have until Friday, May 22, to get your items entered.

This event is an easy (and socially distant!) way to raise money for your neighborhood organization's future projects. Search your storage areas for treasures to donate.

Citywide bidding will begin on Friday, May 22, and run through Friday, June 5. A live event will be held that night, from 5-8 p.m., to watch the final bids come in. No bids will be accepted past 8 p.m., and winners will be announced shortly thereafter.

If you have any questions, call CTV at (865) 215-8848.

### **2. City and County Support Slow Reopening Amid COVID-19**

Starting Friday, May 1, Knoxville and Knox County will begin Phase 1 of the reopening process, opening businesses throughout the community that have been closed for the last month due to COVID-19. This first phase will last 28 days and require core actions from individuals, employers/organizations, and sector-specific businesses:

Individuals, when in public, should physically distance 6 ft. from others not a part of their household, wear cloth face coverings when physical distancing cannot be consistent, avoid socializing in groups of more than 10, avoid more than 6 people per table when dining in public, and minimize non-essential travel. Additionally, higher-risk individuals should continue to stay home as much as possible.

Employers should pick a COVID-19 coordinator, post safety signs and join email update list, encourage telework and return employees to work in phases with a daily screening process, slowly transition to increase services, use strict sanitation and physical distancing protocols (6 feet), encourage employees and customers to wear cloth face coverings when physical distancing cannot be consistent (for some places masks will be required), and strongly consider special accommodations for higher-risk employees.

All services and alternative business models permitted under the March 2020 “Safer at Home” are still permitted. Childcare facilities can operate following CDC guidance and strict sanitation protocols. Sit-down dining, retailers, places of workshop, salons and personal care businesses, and gyms can operate under strict guidelines and protocols. Drinking-only establishments are not open for onsite consumption.

Theaters, sports leagues, libraries, play structures, pools and splash pads remain closed.

Phase 1 will run through Thursday, May 28, unless numbers indicate a need to extend the phase or loosen restrictions sooner. That will be decided by the joint City/County task force.

If you would like further details about which specific businesses are allowed to open, specifics on expectations, and more about the next two phases, you can read the full text of the [Community Strategy for Phased Reopening Plan](#). To stay updated on any new developments, you can either visit the Knox County Health Department [website](#) or the City of Knoxville’s [website](#).

### **3. Tips for Work/Family Balance in the COVID-19 Age**

In the age of COVID-19, only one thing is truly consistent: We are all trying to operate in a new normal. For some, that new normal may consist of work, parenting, teaching, and living all from the “comfort” of your own home.

Here are a few key tips to help you find work/family balance amid all the chaos:

**Establish a New Normal:** Keep in mind that your new normal could change at any minute, and give your family the realistic flexibility it needs to succeed.

Establish a routine and schedule to keep everyone on track. Consider your expectations: work, school, parenting, caregiving, taking care of the pets, etc. Are there patterns that emerge from these expectations? Can you construct a daily routine around these patterns?

Give yourself a general timeline for your day. Let it offer a structure but also be realistic. Include time for self-care, breaks, time to get up and move, make food, etc. Build these

important features of everyday life into your routine, and be flexible. A routine can be useful to not only you, but also set expectations for your kids and your family, as well.

**Adjust and Be Realistic with Your Capacity:** You may want to be the best employer, mother, father, partner, cat owner, teacher, friend... Accept that DOING YOUR BEST is still doing. No one is expected to be on top of their game during a pandemic, especially with all the new challenges that come with this “new normal.”

Communicate! Let your employer know what challenges you are facing. If you need to adjust hours so you can help your kids with their school work, entertain a toddler, or take care of an elderly parent, ask if a more flexible schedule would work during this time. Talk with your children’s teachers; let them know if you are balancing working full time and encouraging your child to do school work all at once.

Talk to your partner or support system about what you need during this time. Can you and your spouse alternate times to be fully present at work and times to be with the kids? Can your mother-in-law do a FaceTime activity with your son while you have an important weekly meeting? Don’t be afraid to honestly express your needs.

If you are trying to balance work and homeschooling, give yourself a break. Think outside the box – interactive games, puzzles, exploring nature, reading a book to a family member over Zoom, art projects, and cooking can all count toward learning. Create a schedule for your kids, but, at the same time, don’t expect them to focus on school work for 6 hours a day. Give them and yourself the capacity to learn, grow, and find a sense of peace amid all the unpredictability.

**Give Yourself Grace:** Some days will be harder than others. Some days you will be the best mom, CEO, math teacher, and dog runner the world has ever seen, but on others you might barely make it through the day. That is OKAY.

You are a human, trying to juggle life through a pandemic. Give yourself grace to laugh, to cry, to need a minute, to ask for help, to not be perfect, to take too long, to have to try again, to be a human. It’s okay. Even on a bad day, “your best” is good enough. 😊

This information was compiled from two WELCOA Wellness Council of America articles. For more helpful resources and information on finding a work/family balance among other needs in the age of COVID-19, check out the [WELCOA Blog](#).

#### **4. BBB and POH Canceled**

The previously scheduled Thursday, April 30 [Better Building Board](#) and Friday, May 1, [Public Officer Hearing](#) meetings have been canceled. To keep up with future meetings, visit their websites or check this newsletter for updates.

#### **5. Free E-Books for Young Readers**

[Friends of Literacy](#) is giving away FREE access to thousands of popular and award-winning books for children and young adults. You can download up to 10 e-books at a time from the database—all for free! Spanish-language e-books are also available.

All households with minor children are eligible. In addition, you'll receive resources to help your family improve literacy skills and foster a love of learning.

Visit the Friends of Literacy [webpage](#) to sign up today. The first 250 families to sign up will receive an age-appropriate book in the mail for each child in grades Pre-K to 5 in the household.

## **6. KCDC's Five Points Earns Award**

Knoxville's Community Development Corporation's (KCDC) Five Points redevelopment has earned a 2019 Tennessee's Best award in the neighborhood stabilization category.

Presented in March by the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) at the Tennessee Housing Conference in Nashville, the Tennessee's Best awards honor excellence in the development or management of affordable housing that reflects the highest standards in quality and sustainability. The Neighborhood Stabilization category recognizes developments achieving this goal through THDA programs or the orchestrated use of THDA programs with other housing organizations.

The \$80 million redevelopment of Five Points in East Knoxville includes the construction of 336 modern, energy-efficient housing units through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, utilizing Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and Community Investment Tax Credits (CITC) through THDA.

Additionally, the City of Knoxville has invested more than \$13 million in the Five Points site for extensive utilities replacement; new and widened streets; additional lighting; and sidewalk construction to improve walkability and connectivity of housing to the community.

Five Points redevelopment is based on a master plan released in 2014, which followed years of community input as a guide to replace the outdated Walter P. Taylor Homes and Dr. Lee L. Williams Senior Complex developments with modern housing units. The four-phase plan was designed to build on previous redevelopment in the area, including the adaptive reuse of Eastport School and The Residences at Eastport senior housing. Phase 1, The Residences at Five Points, opened in 2017 on Bethel Ave., and includes 90 units for elderly and disabled residents. Phase 2 opened in 2018, on the east side of McConnell St. along Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., and is a 10-building, 84-unit development for families. Phase 3 opened in 2019, at the west corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. and McConnell St., and is a 28-building, 80-unit complex for families.

Construction is underway for a 2020 opening of Five Points 4, a 31-building, 82-unit complex for families at the intersection of Kenner Avenue and McConnell Street. The completion of Five Points 4 will mark the realization of the Five Points Master Plan. The investment at Five Points has elevated the quality of the built environment as well as the overall aesthetic of the site, creating a space that fosters a sense of pride among residents and the broader community.

## **7. CTV Wants to Hear Your "Knox Responds" Story**

How have you been affected by COVID-19?

What major changes and challenges have your family, friends, and neighbors had to work through in light of the situation?

What creative ideas have you and your groups come up with to overcome these challenges?

Are there any positive lessons or ideas society can take away from this pandemic?

Has your neighborhood come up with any fun ideas to stay connected?

If you have some answers to these questions, share them! [Community Television of Knoxville](#) (CTV) wants to share your story on their new series, Knoxville Responds.

Knoxville Responds is a comfortable interview from your home. A CTV representative will ask you questions and talk with you about your COVID-19 experience. These friendly conversations help show other Knoxville residents they're not alone, offer ideas to stay positive through this crisis, and give you an opportunity to share your COVID experience.

Check out the [CTV Facebook](#) page to see all the Knoxville Responds stories done so far. You may even see some familiar faces.

For more information or to sign up for an interview, reach out to Kevin Jeske-Polyak at [kevin@ctvKnox.org](mailto:kevin@ctvKnox.org).

### **8. Farmer's Market Starts Saturday; Temporarily Moves**

The Market Square Farmer's Market begins this Saturday, May 2, and will temporarily move to Mary Costa Plaza, 500 Howard Baker Jr. Ave. to allow room for social distancing between market vendors and customers. The market will operate on Saturdays and Wednesdays in this location from this Saturday through Saturday, June 27.

The Market will start at 9 a.m. for our elderly, immune-compromised, and/or most at-risk community members. Everyone else is welcome to join from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nourish Knoxville is shifting the focus of the downtown market to solely provide essential space for community members to purchase fresh, local food. The market will consist of food and farm vendors only.

For more information, please visit Nourish Knoxville's [website](#).

### **9. 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](mailto: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.*