

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 18 – Tuesday, May 12, 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. Why Should I Wear a Mask? There are Many Benefits**

In April, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD), following guidance from the Center of Disease Control (CDC), advised that all Knox County residents wear a cloth face covering when venturing out in public.

Individuals can be contagious before the onset of symptoms. We may be contagious and not know it. If you have covered your nose and mouth, it can limit the spread of COVID-19 to someone else.

We touch our face less when our face is covered. Touching your face after touching something contaminated with COVID-19 increases your chances of getting sick with COVID-19.

It is recommended that we wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth when we must be in public. With more people in Knoxville starting to get out in Phase one, it is more difficult to keep 6 feet from people.

Along with the serious reasons to wear a cloth face coverings, there are some fun silver linings to think about listed below.

It's not your face's best day? No problem! There's a mask for that! Maybe you have a zit on your chin, didn't have time to shave, or ran out of foundation? Don't fear; the mask is

here! Throw on that mask, bandana, buff, or scarf around your mouth and nose and all anyone will see is your cool mask.

You want to work on your eye moves? Let the mask give you an assist! Since the rest of your face is covered, no one will be able to resist looking directly into your beautiful exposed eyes. Practice the eyelash flutter, the glance and look away, or maybe even the direct stare. Without the distraction of the rest of your face, those eyes will be hard to miss.

What's that smell? The mask has your back! We all know the work restroom can be, well, less pleasant smelling than a cookie factory; wear your mask in the restroom. Voila! Bad smells be gone! You can even spray a little lavender or peppermint oil on your mask and smell the goodness all day.

So, you think you're less than photogenic? No worries! This moment was made for you. Take all the best selfies, model shots, and more with the benefit of hiding that half smile. Make any face you want; no one will know! Thanks, mask!

Not so sure how you feel about your friend's new haircut? It's okay; she won't be able to see the grimace on your face because you're wearing a mask! Just nod and giggle, and she will think you adore that crooked bob she cut by herself in quarantine. The mask will not betray you!

It's a new fashion statement! That's right, masks are the new handbag. Whether you make your own, repurpose grandpa's old Western bandana, or buy a fancy sequin mask (yes, that's an option), make the mask your newest fashion accessory! You can match your outfit, go bold, make it part of a costume, or even show support for your favorite team. Everyone will be jealous: "Hey, girl, where'd you get that mask!?"

Is today a low air-quality day? Thank goodness for this mask! Or maybe you are socially distancing around a friend's fire; not to fear, the mask is here. Let that mask block unwanted bad air from reaching your lungs while it's blocking your unwanted slobber from reaching others. 😊

All jokes aside, the KCHD and CDC do recommend wearing a mask. While a cloth mask does not protect you 100 percent from COVID-19 particulates, it does reduce the risk of spreading particles to others. Even if you are feeling well, you could be asymptomatic. Do your part and wear your mask. Besides, as you can see, there are many other benefits!

Visit the CDC's [website](#) for more on why to wear a mask and tips on effective coverings.

Follow the City of Knoxville's [COVID-19 Updates](#), and make sure to take photos and #ShowUsYourMask. Post a picture with the hashtag and tag @CityKnoxvilleTN. Let's see what benefits you can come up with!

## **2. Officer Morgan Speaks to NAC Via Zoom**

The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) meets tomorrow Wednesday, May 13, from 4:30-6 p.m. via Zoom with guest speaker Officer John Morgan of the Knoxville Police Department's Safety Education Unit.

Officer Morgan will present ways to stay safe during the COVID-19 crisis and show a PowerPoint presentation on “Active Shooter Safety.”

If you know you have questions, please email them to [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) by noon on Wednesday, May 13, and we will try to cover these during the presentation. After the presentation, the NAC members will have a chance to ask questions. If there is time left, we will open the floor up for attendees to ask questions.

Attendees will be able to Zoom in or call in and listen to the presentation and the Council member’s comments. Either click the link below or call the number below. You will be on mute when you call in. If there is time at the end for attendee questions, you will be able to raise your hand by clicking on the “Hand sign” if you Zoomed in or \*9 if you phoned in. We will be able to find you and unmute you.

The information to view the presentation is below:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: May 13, 2020 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Neighborhood Advisory Council

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/96658900120?pwd=cjJZd3FqVkRQM1IUcVRVK1puZjk1UT09>

1-669-900-9128, 96658900120#, 1#,644992#

Webinar ID: 966 5890 0120

Password: 644992

### **3. City Invites Neighborhoods to Participate in Fourth of July Celebration**

This year’s Fourth of July Celebration may look a little different than previous years. However, with your help, it can be the most fun interactive year yet, despite social distancing!

Due to COVID-19 related challenges, the City has decided to forgo Knoxville’s traditional Festival of the Fourth Celebration this year. Still, to maintain Knoxville’s title as one of the most patriotic cities in the Southeast, the City of Knoxville’s Special Events Office, in partnership with the Office of Neighborhoods, is planning a fun, city-wide, neighborhood-focused event in its stead.

This year’s “Knoxville’s Neighborhood Trails of Red, White, and Blue,” invites neighbors to decorate their houses, porches, lawns, mailboxes, driveways, and maybe even family members, in patriotic colors for all to enjoy. Each participating neighborhood will be put on a map for city residents to drive, bike, walk, and follow the “trail of red, white, and blue.” Like the Dogwood Trail, a blue arrow will be painted through participating neighborhood’s main streets, from Friday, July 3 through Sunday, July 5, highlighting different parts of the city.

On Saturday, July 4, judges and a caravan parade will drive through participating neighborhoods from 1-4 p.m., spreading more patriotic spirit and looking for the most

well-decorated neighborhood. Participating neighborhoods will be judged on the following categories:

- Best decorated neighborhood
- Neighborhood with the best overall patriotic spirit
- Best decorated object (mailbox, window, stoop, etc.)

Is your neighborhood interested in being a part of the celebration?

To be listed on “Knoxville’s Neighborhood Trails of Red, White, and Blue,” contact Eden Slater at [eslater@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:eslater@knoxvilletn.gov) by **June 10**, with the following information: neighborhood name, contact name and number, and one or two main streets on which your neighborhood plans to participate.

Participating neighborhood’s will be included on the painted trail, on the map, and provided signage at the street entrances. More information will be posted soon on Special Event’s [website](#).

Join in the fun and show your neighborhood’s patriotic spirit!

#### **4. Governor Extends Video Meetings Through June**

Governor Lee issued [Executive Order No. 34](#) on May 6, 2020. This order extends [Executive Order No. 16](#), which temporarily permits safe, open, and transparent public meetings to be held by electronic means. All governing bodies in Tennessee, including county commissions, city councils, boards of aldermen, school boards, state boards, are covered under this order.

Executive Order No. 34 mandates that meetings must be open and accessible to the public by electronic means. If a live public meeting is not possible, then a clear audio or video recording of the meeting needs to be available to the public as soon as possible, following the meeting. In no event, should it be more than two business days after the meeting.

[Community Television of Knoxville](#) records many of our local government meetings. You can find a [schedule of meetings](#) on their website, as well as a list of [archived recordings](#) so you can watch any meetings you may have missed.

You can also watch CTV’s recordings on their website or on broadcast TV:  
Xfinity (Comcast) – Channel 12  
Charter (Spectrum) – Channel 193  
WOW! (Knology) – Channel 6  
AT&T U-verse – Channel 99

Executive Order No. 34 will expire on June 30, 2020.

#### **5. Planning Commission Holds Telemeeting**

Planning Commission will meet via Zoom on Thursday, May 14, at 1:30 pm. The full [agenda](#) is available on [Planning’s website](#).

The following addresses are listed under “Rezoning And Plan Amendment/Rezoning”:  
2021 & 2025 Neubert Rd.; 2109 Neubert Rd.; 3216 Johnson Rd.; 745 N. Broadway Ave.; 5913 W. Emory Rd.; 1714 & 1716 W. Emory Rd.; 710 Irwin St.; 3324 Swafford Rd.; 9942 Westland Dr.; 2433 & 2421 Reagan Rd.; 3105 Essary Dr.

The following addresses are listed under “Concepts/Development Plans”:  
7711 Thompson School Rd.; 6848 Beeler Rd.; 0, 2023 and 2027 Arcadia Peninsula Way & 0 Forrest Glad Way.

The following addresses are listed under “Uses On Review”:  
12650 Yarnell Rd.; 1506 Laurens Glen Ln.; 0 Hyatt Rd.; 2720 Ellistown Rd.; 1120 Dry Gap Pike; 713 E. Emory Rd.; 10101 Westland Dr.; 7700 Dannaher Dr.; 2326 Cherahala Blvd.; 8835 Middlebrook Pike; 1814 & 1816 East Glenwood Ave.; 651 Mars Hill Rd.

All are welcome to view the proceedings.

## **6. Don't Forget to Fill Out Your 2020 Census**

Tennessee's self-response rate for the 2020 Census is 58 percent. That means we will only get 58 percent of the federal dollars that we could get here in Knoxville. Let's do better! We need to ensure that we get 100 percent of the funding that should be coming our way, by ensuring that we count everyone living here.

Ask everyone that you know if they have filled out the Census 2020 form. It is an easy nine-question survey.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into our community each year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location.

Think of your morning commute: Census results influence highway planning and construction, as well as grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems.

Think of your local schools: Census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program, free lunch programs, and for grants that support teachers and special education.

The list goes on, including programs to support rural areas, restore wildlife, prevent child abuse, prepare for wildfires, provide housing assistance for older adults, and even to support programs assisting in a crisis, like COVID-19.

Let's be sure everyone gets counted so that we bring in all the dollars possible for our community. Fill out your 2020 Census at [2020Census.gov](https://2020Census.gov).

## **7. Knox County Residents Can Now Request Absentee Ballots**

Early voting is coming up Thursday, Aug. 6, for Knox County's General Election. For those wanting to vote via absentee ballot, you are now able to do this by [application](#).

Reasons to request an absentee ballot include:

You are 60 years old or older.

You are on jury duty.

You are a candidate for office.

You are an election official.

It is a religious holiday for you.

You personally are dealing with a hospitalization, illness, or physical disability.

You are a caretaker of someone who is hospitalized, ill, or physically disabled.

You are a person with a disability whose polling place is inaccessible.

You are a commercial driver working out of the country.

You will be working out of the county during early voting and Election Day (military, national service, and/or international service).

You are a student or the spouse of a student attending school outside of Knox County.

If you would like to use an absentee ballot, but do not fit into one of these categories listed above, you could contact your State Representatives. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, states, counties, cities, may be willing to add to the categories of people allowed to vote via absentee ballot.

Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

Tuesday, July 7, - Final day to register to vote before election

Friday, July 17, - First day of Early Voting period

Thursday, July 30, - Final day to request an absentee ballot

Saturday, Aug. 1, - Final day of Early Voting period

Thursday, Aug. 6, - Election Day

## **8. TDOT Seeks Input on STAP**

In an effort to provide the best multimodal transportation system in the nation, TDOT is in the process of updating the Statewide Active Transportation Plan (STAP).

Over the past few years, TDOT has made great strides to provide infrastructure for walkers, bicyclists, and public transit riders. Such efforts include the creation of the TDOT Multimodal Access Grant, adoption of the 2015 Multimodal Accommodation Policy. For a closer look at TDOT's recent efforts to improve multimodal transportation, check out the [Multimodal Project Scoping Manual](#) and [Multimodal Design Guidelines](#).

In partnership with consultants KCI Technologies, TDOT is creating the STAP to examine priorities, needs and challenges Tennesseans have with biking, walking, and public transit accessibility. To see the full picture of current issues, TDOT would like to hear from you!

Please take a moment to complete the [TDOT Active Transportation Survey](#). Your answers will help provide valuable perspectives and insights in creating the STAP. The survey closes on Thursday, May 21.

## **9. May Is Mental Health Awareness Month**



According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five adults in the US live with a mental illness—that's over 46 million people. Unfortunately, fewer than half of those dealing with mental illness will seek treatment, and the rates are even lower among men and people of color. As we all deal with the [stress and anxiety caused by COVID-19](#), it is especially important that we take time to prioritize our mental health.

First observed in 1949, May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Throughout this month, many agencies and nonprofits launch educational campaigns to educate the public, fight the stigma, and provide support to those living with mental illness. Check out the information and resources these organizations have compiled for Mental Health Month:

- [Mental Health America](#): Tools2Thrive
- [Anxiety and Depression Association of America](#): #BreakTheStigma
- [The National Council for Behavioral Health](#)
- [National Alliance on Mental Health](#): You are Not Alone

If you would like to learn more about health and human service programs in East Tennessee, including mental health resources, call [2-1-1](#) or 865-215-4211 to speak to a live operator.

[The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you or someone you know is struggling, please call the lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

#### **[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](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.*