

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 20 – Tuesday, June 2, 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. SKNBC Elects New Officers**

[The South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Coalition \(SKNBC\)](#) is an umbrella organization that aims, among many other things, to support and enhance the South Knoxville neighborhood associations and businesses it represents.

During their April meeting, SKNBC held elections via Zoom.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers: Co-Chairs are Adam Fritts and Tommy Smith; Treasurer is Herman Weaver; and Recorders are Karyn Adams, Debbie Mallard, LeAnne Smith, and Kara Strouse.

They send a huge thank you to those who rolled off: John Griffith, Tiffany Griffith, Drew Jeske-Polyak, Kevin Jeske-Polyak, and Elizabeth Sherrod.

Member organizations include **Colonial Village Neighborhood Association, Island Home Park Neighborhood Association, Lake Forest Neighborhood Association, Lindbergh Forest Neighborhood Association, Old Sevier Community Group, South Haven Neighborhood Association, South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, South Knoxville Alliance, Southside Waterfront Neighborhood Association, Vestal Community Organization, and View Park Neighborhood Watch.**

If your neighborhood organization or Business Association is in South Knoxville and you are interested in joining SKNBC, please email [contact@sknbc.org](mailto:contact@sknbc.org).

Also if you would like to learn more about the coalition or have the opportunity to present at one of their meetings, please reach out to the email above.

## **2. Save The Date: NAC To Be Held on June 10**

The [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC) will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, June 10, from 4:30 - 6 p.m., to discuss how COVID-19 has affected the neighborhoods.

We want to hear the good and the bad about what these last three months have been like for everyone.

All are welcome to listen in. If time allows, guests will be able to participate in the conversation. With Zoom Webinars, there is also the opportunity for folks to leave comments in the Chat Box. That will be available to everyone during the meeting, as well.

Details about the Zoom Webinar will be in next week's newsletter. Stay tuned.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382.

## **3. OON Hosts Mandatory Meetings for Small Grants Program**

Has your neighborhood considered a unique project? Maybe you have the perfect spot for a mural, a lot for a community garden, a location for a dedication bench, a great event idea, or some other idea unique to your neighborhood. Consider applying for the [Neighborhood Small Grants Program](#) (NSGP).

The NSGP offers neighborhood grants from \$500 to \$3,000 (or up to \$4,500 if your neighborhood organization partners with another non-profit or neighborhood organization), for projects that engage and encourage neighborhood togetherness and community. To apply for the NSGP, all applicants must be resident-led, resident-controlled neighborhood organizations and attend a mandatory grant workshop.

For a full list of requirements and the NSGP application guidelines, visit the link above. To fulfill the mandatory workshop requirement, please send a representative from your organization to ONE of the following workshops:

- Tuesday, June 23, at 6 p.m.
- Saturday, June 27, at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 8, at 6 p.m.

At this time, the plan is for the workshops to be in person. Please register with Eden Slater at [eslater@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:eslater@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2113, for the workshop you wish to attend. Currently, only 10 participants are allowed in the room at a time. Please register by Monday, June 22 so we may ensure proper social distancing practices are in place, and we have enough space in the room for everyone. We ask that each neighborhood only

send one representative per organization to allow room for more groups to apply. The location will be given with your registration. If need be, we will plan a fourth workshop to accommodate all participants.

#### **4. Neighbors Navigate Phase Two Reopening**

The City of Knoxville is one week into Phase Two of the Knox County Reopening Plan. All businesses may open, but must operate under the public health guidelines issued by the Knox County Health Department, especially as far as physical distancing goes. Swimming pools, for instance, can open, but people need to practice physical distancing, including when they are outside the pool.

Gatherings of up to 50 people are now allowed in Phase Two. If your neighborhood organization's board is 12-15 members, you may meet in person. If you do plan to meet in person, be sure to practice the five core practices listed below.

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently;
- Practice physical distancing;
- Wear masks when you cannot be physically distant;
- Clean surfaces regularly;
- Stay Home when sick.

For more details about recommendations, please visit the Knox County Health Department's [website](#).

Of course, if your neighborhood prefers to wait, or keep your meetings virtual, that is another great option. If you would like information on how to manage a virtual meeting, please reach out to Bailey Walker at [bwalker@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:bwalker@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-3232.

#### **5. The Knoxville-Knox County Reopening Task Force Meets This Week**

The Knoxville-Knox County Reopening Task Force will meet on Wednesday, June 3, at 4 p.m. via video conference call. The public can watch the meeting live by visiting <https://stream.knoxcountytn.gov/>. All are welcome to attend.

The agenda is as follows:

- Open meetings & Sunshine
- How Task Force meetings are usually conducted & a general overview of the process
- Review of previous meetings
- "Rules of the Virus"
- Benchmark data assessment timeline
- Phase Three discussion
  - Additional community feedback
  - Industry specific guidance
- Expanding the business support cadre
- Next meeting?

Please continue to engage in the [Five Core Actions](#) and show compassion to others during these difficult times.

## **6. Knoxville's Census Numbers Lag**

It's quick and easy; it's not too late; and it's safe and secure. It's only nine questions, yet the 2020 U.S. Census can help our community tremendously.

An estimated 480,000 people live in Knox County. Currently Knox County's response rate is at 66% of our population. If we only count 66% of our neighbors, we are missing about 163,800 people in the Census count. Each person brings in \$2,000 each year for 10 years; that translates into losing close to 3.3 BILLION DOLLARS for our county over the next 10 years.

The areas of low response are predominantly in the city's center. Knoxville, let's challenge our neighbors to help us get everyone counted.

Visit the US Census [website](#) to see details about what programs are funded by the federal dollars.

## **7. Trails of Red, White, and Blue Gain Neighborhood Support**

Have you heard? This year's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration will be socially different but neighborhood centric!

That's right! In lieu of the annual Festival on the Fourth Celebration on the World's Fair Park, this year the City of Knoxville will celebrate the "Neighborhood Trails of Red, White, and Blue." This new event encourages neighborhoods to work together to decorate homes, porches, mailboxes, cars, siblings, pets, and whatever else you want, in red and white and blue!

Register a couple streets in your neighborhood by June 10, and be featured on the "Neighborhood Trails of Red, White, and Blue," trail from July 3 to 5. Other neighbors from across Knoxville will get a map and follow the "blue" trail and see all the neat things your neighborhood has come up with. Judges and a caravan parade will come through on the 4<sup>th</sup> to spread more celebration and see whose neighborhood is the most "red, white, and blue."

To learn more, check out the new "[Neighborhood Trails of Red, White, and Blue](#)," web page.

So far, five neighborhoods have registered to participate in the event: RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood, Old North Knoxville Inc., Northwest Hills Neighborhood Watch, Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization, and Vestal Community Organization. Vestal has even planned a neighborhood social distance clean-up for their event (see more about this in an upcoming newsletter)!

What creative ideas can your neighborhood come up with? Check out the new webpage for details, and register by June 10 with Eden Slater at [eslater@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:eslater@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2113.

## **8. Urban Wilderness Park Nears Completion of Phase One**

When complete, the new Urban Wilderness Gateway Park will serve as a front door to the 1,000-acre Urban Wilderness recreation area in South Knoxville. The first two components of the \$10 million Urban Wilderness Gateway Park project are progressing on schedule.

Phase one is more general: parking, connector roads, greenways, and utilities are being created. This phase also includes the completion of the Baker Creek Bike Park, which will provide riders of all abilities opportunities to learn and perfect their mountain-biking skills. The track's design complements the existing feature of the Urban Wilderness trail system and features a large asphalt pump track, as well as, several jump and skill lines. This project is currently wrapping up final details and is projected to be complete early this summer.

The work doesn't stop there. Phase two is estimated to be completed in late summer. The adventure playground at Baker Creek Preserve will be rebuilt, with restrooms, shade structures, picnic areas, play features, and gathering spaces added at both Baker Creek Preserve and the new Gateway Park entrance at the end of James White Parkway.

Read more about the project updates and see photos on the [City's blog](#).

## **9. Register To Vote By July 7, For Aug. 6, Election**

The Tennessee State Primary Election is coming up on Thursday, Aug. 6. This election will feature the Federal and State primary election, as well as the County General Election.

Are you registered to vote? In order to vote in the Aug. 6 election, Tennesseans must register to vote no later than July 7.

To see if you are registered to vote, visit the Tennessee Secretary of State's [Voter Registration Look Up](#). For instructions and online voter registration, follow this [link](#).

If you would like to request an absentee ballot, follow the [link](#), and see if you qualify. Absentee Ballots must be completed and received by the election commission by July 30.

Make sure your vote counts in this year's primary election! Register to vote today!

## **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 [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto: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.*