

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 26 – Tuesday, July 14, 2020

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-07-14>

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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. Knox County Board of Health to Meet Tomorrow**

The Knox County Board of Health is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, July 15, from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. The meeting will be held electronically via Zoom streaming. You can view the stream on Knox County's Youtube page, [www.youtube.com/knoxcountyttn](http://www.youtube.com/knoxcountyttn), or the Knox county livestream website, <https://stream.knoxcountyttn.gov/>.

Items up for discussion include a general health update, a presentation on the COVID-19 benchmarks, a review and discussion of the COVID-19 face covering mandate, and more. To view the full agenda, visit the Health Department's website: [https://covid.knoxcountyttn.gov/pdfs/BOH-Media\\_Notice-7-15-20%20Mtg.pdf](https://covid.knoxcountyttn.gov/pdfs/BOH-Media_Notice-7-15-20%20Mtg.pdf)

### **2. City to Hold Public Meeting for Fort Kid Plans**

The City of Knoxville, PBA, and Hedstrom Landscape Architects will host a public meeting to unveil schematic drawings of Fort Kid on Thursday, July 16, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium, 500 Howard Baker Jr. Ave.

COVID-19 safeguards at the public meeting will be enforced: Wearing a mask and physical distancing (staying 6 feet apart) will be mandatory.

If you cannot attend the meeting or prefer not to, Community Television of Knoxville will live-stream the public meeting. Go to [www.ctvknox.org](http://www.ctvknox.org) or watch on television: Xfinity (Comcast) – Channel 12; Charter (Spectrum) – Channel 193; WOW! (Knology) – Channel 6; or AT&T U-verse – Channel 99.

The presentation from the July 16 public meeting and renderings of the schematic drawings will be posted after the meeting at City's [website](#).

At the last public meeting on Fort Kid, held on March 12 at the Knoxville Museum of Art, attendees were shown images from existing playgrounds in other cities as possible inspiration for what an upgraded Fort Kid might look like. At that time, a community survey was initiated, asking about color scheme preferences and which elements and play activities are most valued.

Almost 400 people completed the survey, which helped guide the design.

Additional feedback from the upcoming July 16 public meeting will be considered as Fort Kid plans are finalized and construction gets underway. Comments also can be made through the City Communications Department by emailing [communications@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:communications@knoxvilletn.gov).

The architects are designing the new Fort Kid play structure to be more inclusive, allowing more people to enjoy creative play at the park.

The City anticipates reopening Fort Kid in spring 2021.

The 30-year-old Fort Kid play structure was removed to complete the demolition and removal of a decaying retaining wall and bad soils causing safety issues. A new grassy slope has been completed and provides unique design opportunities for a better connection between Fort Sanders, Fort Kid, and the Knoxville Museum of Art.

The City of Knoxville designated \$300,000 to prepare the site for a new, more inclusive Fort Kid play structure. Old City business owner Thomas Boyd, who has fond memories from his childhood of playing at Fort Kid, has donated an additional \$200,000 to the project.

For more details, visit the City's website, listed above.

### **3. BZA and HZC Meet this Week**

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will meet this Thursday, July 16, at 4 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room, Main floor of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

BZA will consider the following petitions for variance of requirements: 854 N. Central St.; 2401 N. Central St.; 109 Callahan Dr.; 2701 Spence Pl.

The Historic Zoning Commission will meet this Thursday, July 16, at 8:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room, Main floor of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

Certificates of Appropriateness will be awarded to: 803 S. Gay St.; 3004 Kingston Pike; 1943 Emoriland Blvd.; 820 N 3rd. Ave.; 1111 Eleanor St.; 16th St.; 241 E. Oklahoma Ave.; 417 E. Oklahoma Ave.; 4002 Tazewell Pike.

The next BZA and HZC meeting are on Thursday, August 20.

If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability, please contact the City ADA coordinator at 215-2034.

#### **4. TPO Seeks Input on Long-Term Mobility Plan**

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is updating the long-range transportation plan for Knox County and the surrounding area. The update, Mobility Plan 2045, is conducted every four years to allow TPO to receive federal money for transportation projects and make the best long-term decisions for the regions' residents, visitors, and employers.

Visit [knoxmobility.org](http://knoxmobility.org) to learn more about the plan, watch videos on a variety of topics related to the plan, fill out a feedback survey, and add comments to an interactive map. TPO encourages all interested persons to visit the website frequently for more opportunities to provide input.

Your feedback will help TPO understand how Knoxville residents currently feel about the state of transportation in the region, as well as, help guide their decision making on which projects need greater attention, etc.

The plan looks ahead 25 years, determining what is needed now and anticipating what may be needed in the future, factoring in population growth and other important factors. The plan focuses on several areas of interest, including congestion, safety, health, land use, equity, and economic development. It digs into these issues to present a big picture look at the region.

The first round of survey data will be analyzed on Friday, July 17. Check out the Mobility Plan 2045, and give your input, today!

#### **5. Early Voting to Start on Friday, July 17**

Early voting begins Friday, July 17th, and runs Monday through Saturday until Saturday, August 1st.

If you do plan to vote in person, early voting may be a good option to help avoid crowds. Instead of voting at your polling location, Knox County residents may early vote at any of the following locations:

- City County Building Small Assembly Room, 400 Main St. (Check special schedule.)
- Knoxville Expo Center (North), 5441 Clinton Hwy.
- Love Kitchen, 2418 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
- Farragut Town Hall, 11408 Municipal Center Dr.
- Downtown West, 1645 Downtown West Blvd.
- Carter Library, 9036 Asheville Hwy.
- New Harvest Park, 4775 New Harvest Ln.
- Halls Recreation Center, 6933 Recreation Ln.
- Meridian Baptist Church (South), 6513 Chapman Hwy. (Check special schedule.)
- Karns Senior Center, 8042 Oak Ridge Hwy. (Check special schedule.)

Unless marked above, general early voting hours run from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday, from July 17-28, with extended hours from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., July 29-31. Voters can also early vote on Saturday July 18, 25, and Aug. 1, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Concerned about voting in person? You can still request an absentee ballot! The last day to request an absentee ballot is July 30. Absentee ballots must be mailed back in time for your county election commission to receive it, no later than the close of polls on election day, Thursday, August 6.

In early June, a state court judge ordered the expansion to allow more residents to qualify for absentee voting during the coronavirus pandemic. However, if you are a first-time voter, you must vote in person.

Voters can find early voting and election day polling locations and special schedules, view and mark sample ballots, and much more on the GoVoteTN app, available in the App Store and on Google Play.

For more information about registering to vote, voter eligibility, photo IDs, and other Election Day details visit [GoVoteTN.com](https://www.govotetn.com) or call the Secretary of State's Division of Elections toll-free at 1-877-850-4959.

## **6. Project LIVE Seeks Neighborhood Volunteers**

Are you looking for ways to give back to your community during these weird times? Interested in ways to help those in need in your area? Consider volunteering with Project LIVE!

Project LIVE (Living Independently through Volunteer Efforts) is a program through the Community Action Committee (CAC)'s Office on Aging, that utilizes volunteer assistance to help seniors with yard projects and minor home repair.

This year, thanks to the COVID-19 outbreak, many volunteer groups that generally assist with Project LIVE summer projects are not coming together. This lack of regular volunteers has led to a rise in seniors seeking help with yard mowing, bush trimming, gutter cleaning, and minor home repairs.

Whether you have a mower, would be happy to lend a hand as part of a small group, or have some handy repair skills, consider reaching out to help. Some seniors in need may even be your neighbors!

To volunteer, visit Volunteer East TN at [volunteeretn.org](http://volunteeretn.org) and search for Project LIVE, or e-mail Lance Byrd at [lance.byrd@knoxseniors.org](mailto:lance.byrd@knoxseniors.org). Even a couple hours of help can mean a lot to a senior in need.

Do you know a senior neighbor in your neighborhood who could benefit from a group clean-up or yard work day? Consider hosting a Neighborhood Give Day! Contact Eden Slater at [eslater@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:eslater@knoxvilletn.gov) for more information.

### **7. 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.*