

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 27 – Tuesday, July 21, 2020

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-07-21>

1. City Council Hosts Workshop to Discuss Police Department
2. Knox County Board of Health Plans Weekly Meetings
3. City Updates Safety Building Blog Weekly
4. Absentee Ballot Request Deadline Approaching
5. City Plans Virtual Ft. Kid Meeting for Aug.
6. KAT Helps Register Voters
7. July BBB and POH Canceled
8. Community Leadership Seeks Class Nominations
9. [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.

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1. City Council Hosts Workshop to Discuss Police Department

The Knoxville City Council will be hosting a workshop via Zoom concerning the Knoxville Police Department on Thursday, July 23, at 4 p.m. The topics to be covered are review and analysis of incoming telephone calls, (Emergency and Non-Emergency) and social work / crisis intervention team response. Visit the City Council Meeting Schedule webpage to see the updated [agenda](#).

Members of the public will not be able to physically attend the meeting due to Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order Nos. 16 and 51, but the public is encouraged to watch the meeting on Community Television of Knoxville either streaming on its website or on broadcast television. To stream Council meetings, go to www.ctvknox.org. To watch on television, these are broadcast options: Xfinity (Comcast) – Channel 12, Charter (Spectrum) – Channel 193, WOW! (Knology) – Channel 6 or AT&T U-verse – Channel 99.

2. Knox County Board of Health Plans Weekly Meetings

Amid growing concerns in Knox County's rise in COVID-19 cases, the Knox County Board of Health voted to meet every week instead of continuing by-weekly meetings.

The Board of Health will meet each week, virtually, on Wednesday's at 5 p.m., with the next planned meeting set for Wednesday, July 22. To stay up-to-date on upcoming meetings and see each week's agenda, visit the Knox County Health Department's [Public Meeting Notice](#) page.

The meeting can be viewed via the Knox County YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/knoxcountyttn or the Knox County Livestream website at www.stream.knoxcountyttn.gov

The Knox County Board of Health is comprised of medical professionals from across the county and the County Mayor. The board oversees the Knox County Health Department in establishing a proactive plan to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Knox County. The board highly recommends social distancing and issued a mask mandate for all Knox County. For more on the Board of Health, Knox County's COVID-19 response, and the phased reopening plan, visit the Knox County Health Department's [website](#).

3. City Updates Safety Building Blog Weekly

The City is investing \$40 million to reconstruct the vacant office buildings on the former Tennova hospital site off Broadway in North Knoxville, creating a combined complex for the Police and Fire Departments, E911, Pension System offices and City Court operations. Separately, the City is investing \$6.5 million to clear the northern end of the former hospital campus for private redevelopment.

The City Communications Department posts a weekly blog to provide updates on the project, including photos and videos on the demolition and construction: <https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/blog/One.aspx?portalId=16502544>

This week's blog, titled "High Reach Excavator Brought to Bear on C-Wing Patient Tower," features several new photos: <https://www.knoxvilletn.gov/blog/One.aspx?portalId=16502544&postId=16898290&portletAction=viewpost>

The new safety complex is scheduled to be finished by early 2022. Learn more at the City's [website](#).

4. Absentee Ballot Request Deadline Approaching

The deadline to request an [absentee ballot](#) for the August 6 election is Thursday, July 30.

You must submit a written request containing the information below to your local county election commission office by the seventh day before Election Day. You can use the absentee ballot request form to make sure all required information is provided.

If you are a registered voter, you can submit your written request for an absentee ballot by mail, fax, or e-mail. If e-mailing your request, be sure the attached document contains the information below and your scanned signature:

1. Your name
2. The address of your residence
3. Your social security number
4. Your date of birth
5. The address for where the ballot should be mailed
6. The election in which you wish to participate, and if the election involves a primary, the political party in which you wish to participate.
7. Reason why you wish to vote absentee. If applicable, a copy of the CDL containing the CDL number or the TWIC card must be included in the voter's request.
8. Your signature

A request that contains this information will be processed and a ballot will be mailed to the voter. Seniors, Tennesseans with pre-existing health conditions, and those with concerns over COVID-19 exposure at the polls may request an absentee ballot.

For more information and a list of qualifying reasons to request a ballot, visit the state [website](#).

Only absentee ballots for the August 7, Election Day can be requested now; requests for the November presidential election cannot be requested until a later date.

5. City Plans Virtual Ft. Kid Meeting for Aug.

Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, the City made the executive decision to cancel last week's in-person public meeting, planned for Thursday, July 16, to discuss the rebuilding of Fort Kid.

While the discussion on Fort Kid is extremely important, the City is working on restructuring the meeting format to allow the presentation and input session to be conducted safely online.

A virtual meeting will be held in August; the date will be announced soon. The City, Public Building Authority, and Hedstrom Landscape Architects will release schematic drawings for the proposed plan and a progress report prior to the discussion.

The new Fort Kid design is planned to be more inclusive and safer, allowing more people to enjoy the park and its creative play opportunities. Fort Kid was a 30-year-old play structure built by the community. While the park was a favorite of many, it sat on a decaying retaining wall, causing a safety hazard for all who played at the Fort. At this time, the retaining wall has been removed and replaced by a grassy slope. The design

will work with this newly formed space and provide a better connection between Fort Sanders, Fort Kid, and the Knoxville Art Museum.

The park is projected to cost \$500,000, with the City putting up \$300,000, and local business owner, Thomas Boyd, donating \$200,000.

For more details on the Fort Kid project, please visit the city's [website](#).

6. KAT Helps Register Voters

There are two elections coming up this year:

- August 6, Federal and State Primary Election, County General Election, Town of Farragut Municipal Election
- November 3, Presidential and Federal/State General Election

Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) is here to help you get out and vote!

Stop by KAT's Customer Service Desk to pick up Voter Registrations forms. Their Customer Service team is happy to help you fill out the forms or answer any questions you may have related to:

- How to register to vote
- Vote-by-mail opportunities due to COVID-19
- What identification is required for voting
- Restoration of voting rights
- Schedule of the 2020 election cycle and ballot information
- The importance of the 2020 Census or assistance in filling out Census forms

Early Voting continues through Aug 1, and KAT can help you get there! The bus routes include several early voting locations, such as the Love Kitchen on Route 33 and Downtown West on Route 11.

Remember to mark your calendar with these important voting dates:

- July 30 -- Last day to request an Absentee Ballot
- Aug 1 -- Final Day of Early Voting
- Aug 6 -- Election Day

For more information on checking your voter status, requesting an absentee ballot, or finding the polling place closest to you, visit the Knox County Election Commission's "[Voter Information](#)" page.

7. July BBB and POH Canceled

The [Better Building Board](#) (BBB) meeting scheduled for July 30, has been canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 27.

The [Public Officer Hearing](#) (POH) scheduled for July 31, has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 28.

For a list of upcoming meeting dates, updates on cancelations, and to see upcoming and past agendas, visit the City's BBB and POH [website](#).

8. Community Leadership Seeks Class Nominations

Knoxville Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC)'s Community Leadership is seeking applications for its 34th class. Training sessions are provided for current and emerging leaders who live, work, or volunteer in low to moderate income communities and who have demonstrated a commitment to service.

Individuals who work with agencies or programs, which affect these neighborhoods, are also encouraged to apply.

The objectives of Community Leadership are to:

- Strengthen the capacity for leadership at the grassroots level.
- Create a learning atmosphere which crosses economic, social, racial, and demographic lines.
- Acquaint participants with formal and informal decision-making channels.
- Challenge and motivate individuals to become more involved in community affairs.

[Applications](#) are due by Friday, Aug. 14.

The class consists of 30 participants, chosen from the Knoxville-Knox County area representing various community, civic, religious, professional, and educational groups. Key factors in the selection process will be the interest and demonstrated community commitment of each potential participant. Those chosen will be asked to commit one day each month to a training project, through its duration.

For more, see CAC'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 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.*