

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 28 – Tuesday, July 28, 2020

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-07-28>

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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. Neighborhood Recognition Dinner Announces OLOYA, NOYA, NAA Winners

In honor of those neighbors who go above and beyond for the community, the Office of Neighborhoods (OON) hosted a Neighborhood Recognition Dinner on Thursday, July 23, outside the soon-to-be City Safety Complex.

A small group of neighbors, City Council Members, the Mayor, and City staff gathered for a socially distanced dinner to recognize those neighbors nominated for the Officer Liaison of the Year Award (OLOYA), The Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award (NOYA), and the Neighborhood Achievement Awards (NAA). Nominees enjoyed a dinner catered by Jackie’s Dream, mingled with the Mayor and OON staff, and enjoyed a nice evening of positivity and fellowship.

The Mayor presented proclamations to all the NOYA nominees and announced the winner of the 2020 Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award: Anne Crais of the **West Hills and Wesley Neighbors Community Associations**.

Other NOYA Nominees included:

- Jeff Johnson, **Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Association**
- Kevin Jeske-Polyak, **Southside Waterfront Association**
- Beatta Prater, **Eastport/ Five Points Neighborhood Watch**

The Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award is awarded to neighbors who commit their time and energy to the good of the neighborhood and do not seek recognition for their contributions. As the secretary of the Wesley Neighbors Community Association since 2012, Crais has dedicated countless hours to Wesley Neighbors and West Hills associations, taking notes, planning events, organizing Healthier TN activities, and much more.

Additionally, the Neighborhood Recognition Dinner recognized the following neighborhoods for community-building projects and creative initiatives with the NAA:

- **Forest Heights Neighborhood Association**, Community Wildlife Habitat
- **Historic Sutherland Heights Neighborhood**, Communication with Neighborhood Industry to Solve Community Issues
- **Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association**, Christenberry Outdoor Classroom
- **South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association**, Bicycle Repair Station in Sam Duff Memorial Park
- **West Hills Community Association and Wesley Neighbors Community Association**, Finding Common Ground on Sidewalk and Traffic Calming Projects

The Mayor presented NAA awardees with proclamations and a \$75 check is on its way for each neighborhood to put toward future projects.

Officer Liaisons nominated for the OLOYA award last year during the Oct. 1, National Night Out were also recognized. Eric Parks, the Officer Liaison for the Norwood Community was announced the OLOYA winner, last year, and received a proclamation, as well.

The OLOYA, NOYA, and NAA awards were meant to be presented at the 2020 Neighborhood Conference. However, due to COVID-19, the conference was canceled. The Neighborhood Recognition Dinner served as a smaller, socially-distanced effort to recognize 2020 nominees and awardees despite the cancellation of the conference.

2. City Council to Vote on KPD Body Cameras

On this week's City Council [agenda](#), council members will vote on a contract for 350 new police body cameras and 350 upgraded police cruiser cameras.

At the regularly scheduled City Council meeting, held this Tuesday, July 28, at 6 p.m., via Zoom, Council will be asked to authorize Mayor Kincannon in executing the steps necessary to move forward with a five-year contract with Axon Enterprise. Axon Enterprise is the leading bidder out of seven proposals to provide the Knoxville Police Department (KPD) with new body cameras and updated cruiser cameras. The City evaluation team deemed Axon's proposal most responsive, and recommended signing the 5-year, \$4.9 million dollar contract with the company. The contract covers ongoing

operational costs and has the possibility to be extended, should the City choose to move forward with Axon in the future.

The new body cameras and updated cruiser cameras have been a long-discussed desire for KPD and the community. In the City's press release, Mayor Kincannon stated, "The community wants this, KPD wants this, and we're working hard to get this implemented as soon as possible."

If approved by City Council, City staff hopes to finalize and execute the process for camera installation to go in as early as this fall.

To watch the July 28, Council Meeting live stream, visit <https://www.ctvknox.org/>.

If you wish to speak at the upcoming meeting, please contact the City Recorder, Will Johnson at 215-2075 or wjohnson@knoxvilletn.gov by 5 p.m., on Tuesday, July 28.

3. Last Day to Early Vote or Request an Absentee Ballot

The last day for Early Voting is this 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.

Are you concerned about voting in person? Seniors, Tennesseans with pre-existing health conditions, and those with concerns over COVID-19 exposure at the polls may request an absentee ballot until July 30: https://sos-tn-gov-files.tnsosfiles.com/5%20Request%20for%20Absentee%20Ballot.pdf?S4vtTZYExu0RGPgsQSHS_Hr2L4yd6ai1

Absentee ballots must be received in time for your county election commission to count it, no later than the close of polls on election day, Thursday, Aug. 6. First time voters, however, must vote in person.

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

4. City Council Hosts KUB Amendment Workshop

Knoxville City Council will hold a workshop Thursday, July 30, at 4 p.m. via Zoom video/audio conference. The workshop will cover the KUB Charter Amendment.

The agenda is available

online: <http://knoxvillecitytn.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=1445&Inline=True>

Pursuant to Governor Bill Lee's Executive Orders No. 16 & 51, current meetings will be conducted electronically. Members of the public will not be able to physically attend the meeting, but they can watch 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, here are broadcast options:

Xfinity (Comcast) – Channel 12

Charter (Spectrum) – Channel 193

WOW! (Knology) – Channel 6

AT&T U-verse – Channel 99

5. OON Bids Bailey Farewell

If you get a chance, please send Bailey Walker a virtual hug and big high five. It is with heavy hearts that the Office of Neighborhoods (OON) bids Bailey farewell; this is the last week of her year-long AmeriCorps VISTA term serving in our office.

We will miss Bailey's dry sense of humor, her expert social media posting, her dedication to detail in creating presentations and "How to Videos," and her well known salutes. Bailey has been a great addition to the OON, and while we know she is embarking on a next chapter of her career, we will miss having her on our team.

If you had the opportunity to work with Bailey, please reach out and bid her farewell. We hope she will continue to be an active member in the Knoxville community and know she will go on to do great things. Her work email, which she will have for another week, is bwalker@knoxvilletn.gov.

6. Department of Health Offers "Coffee and Conversations" Webinar Series

Department of Health offers a webinar series called “Coffee and Conversations” free of charge to anyone interested.

This six-part series will focus on the elements of a livable community and how state and local leaders are working to support the ability for all Tennesseans to live to their fullest potentials. Guest speakers will share their expertise and thoughts with attendees, and there will be time for discussion.

The first workshop was last Thursday, July 23. All others are coming up soon on Thursdays at 9 a.m. EST for us Knoxvilleians.

Topics are:

Aug. 6, Transportation for All
Aug. 20, Housing for All
Sept. 3, Food Systems
Sept. 17, Jobs
Oct. 1, Education

All workshops are free, but you must register to get the link to the webinar.

For more information or to register visit the [Department of Health’s website](#).

7. 2020 Landlord Summit Offers Resources to Keep Tenants Housed

There will be a free Landlord Summit on Wednesday, Aug. 5, and Thursday, Aug 6.

This webinar will present useful information for landlords about the CARES act, the new House Knox Housing Navigator program, and how to help tenants who are Knoxville residents, access financial assistance to help with rent and utility debt due to COVID.

For the first webinar on Wednesday, Aug 5, at 12:30 p.m., there will be three speakers to discuss different financial options:

Michael King with Paine, Tarwater, Bickers, LLP will discuss how the CARES Act impacts landlords; Hope Ealey with the City of Knoxville Community Housing and Neighborhood Development will discuss the City’s programs to provide financial assistance to prevent the loss of housing for those affected by COVID-19; and Drew Holloway with United Way will discuss House Knox and the program’s benefits for landlords.

Register here for the first day: https://us02web.zoomus/webinar/WN_XC4yRx49TWSYap8WoE2UTQ

The second webinar in the Landlord Summit will cover Fair Housing Law, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, and the LIHEAP program that can help tenants stay current on utility bills. It will be held on Thursday, Aug. 6, at 12:30 p.m., and include the following speakers:

Christina Magrans-Tillery with the City of Knoxville will discuss Fair Housing Law; Debbie Taylor-Allen with KCDC will discuss Section 8 Housing; and Cecelia Waters with CAC LIHEAP will discuss the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program.

Register here for the second

day: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MTCgnXkhSbelwyswQ36zLA

[8. 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 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.*