

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 14, No. 4 – Tuesday, January 26, 2021

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Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, 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.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods>

1. Empower Knoxville's Youth

The City of Knoxville's Empower Knox initiative would like to help magnify the voices of Knoxville's youth by encouraging youth between the ages of 12 and 20 to attend a Virtual Youth Forum being held on Feb. 4 and 18, from 5-6 p.m.

Empower Knox is planning to establish a youth council this year and would like to meet with groups of young people to advise on its creation. Those interested can register for the forum by emailing Kathy Mack at KMack@knoxvilletn.gov or texting 865-684-6565.

Participants will be entered to win a \$50 gift card at each forum.

2. Meeting Reminders and Deadline Noted

This week, there are several public meetings and one deadline to note.

Tonight, Jan. 26, [City Council](#) will meet at 6 p.m. Check out their [agenda](#) to see if there are any items in your neighborhood for which you would like to view.

Tomorrow, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. the [Knox County Board of Health](#) will meet to address the status of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community, with presentations from the Knox County Health Department, UT Medical Center and Knox County Schools. You can

watch the meeting on Community Television of Knoxville's cable channel (check your provider for listings) or online at Knox County's [YouTube page](#).

Thursday, Jan. 28, at 5:30 p.m., [Knoxville Knox County Planning](#) is having their one-year plan meeting. See their [website](#) for more information.

Also, on Thursday, Jan. 28, at 6 p.m., the [Police Advisory Review Committee](#) (PARC) will hold their fourth quarter meeting via Zoom webinar. See their website for more information. To request to speak during the public forum, contact PARC Executive Director LaKenya Middlebrook at 865-215-3869 or via [email](#). Confirmed speakers will receive instructions via email on how to log into the meeting.

Lastly, Friday, Jan. 29, is the deadline to turn in a nomination for the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year award. See the [Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's](#) website to fill out the nomination [form](#).

3. City Hosts Webinar for Inskip Development

The City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) will facilitate a Zoom webinar on Monday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m., for the Inskip Neighborhood and stakeholders to learn more about an affordable rental housing development being proposed by Southeast Capital LLC.

David and Jake Varner of Southeast Capital LLC are proposing to build 33 two-bedroom apartments and 33 three-bedroom apartments at 806 E. Inskip Drive and 4810 Elder Road. Southeast Capital LLC, which was formed specifically to develop and build affordable housing, is requesting funding for this project through the City's Affordable Rental Development Fund. The group's first affordable housing development, Burlington Commons, is currently underway on Holston Drive in East Knoxville.

Meeting attendees will get a project overview and a chance to ask questions or make comments about the proposal.

Please click the [link](#) to join the webinar and use the passcode 366857.

You can also join by phone at:1-312-626-6799.

4. Neighborhood Achievement Award Nominations Being Accepted

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) is now accepting nominations for Neighborhood Achievement Awards. Self-nominations are encouraged.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive recognition for the work your neighbors did during 2020 and through a pandemic, no less. Applications for the Neighborhood Achievement Award are due Friday, Feb. 5, by 4:30 p.m.

What creative, interesting, resourceful, clever projects have your neighborhood organizations done over the past year?

Whether your organization is large or small, well established or brand new, your group is encouraged to apply for these awards, which showcase accomplishments by

neighborhood groups during the 2020 calendar year. Winners receive \$75 for their Neighborhood Organization to use on future initiatives.

To apply, fill in the [nomination form](#) and email it to Courtney Durrett at cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov OR mail it to: Office of Neighborhoods, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN, 37901, no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5. If you have questions or need a hard copy mailed to you, contact Courtney at 215-3232 or the above email.

Examples of accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

- Beautification and place-making projects, green spaces and community gardens, and other physical improvements to the neighborhood;
- Projects, events, and activities that focus on connecting neighbors with one another, such as street fairs, potlucks, home tours, holiday celebrations, and neighbors helping neighbors;
- New or ongoing communication efforts such as newsletters, social media, and phone tree networks; and
- Activities involved in launching, reviving, or strengthening a neighborhood group.

We are excited to see what creative things you have done in 2020 (and during a pandemic)!

5. Is There Homelessness In Your Neighborhood?

Are you interested in learning more about what can be done to alleviate homelessness in your neighborhood?

The CAC Homelessness Advocacy Committee would like to meet with your organization to discuss homelessness, affordable housing, and programs that CAC offers to help reduce these issues.

If you are interested in having someone from CAC come and speak about this at your next meeting, please contact Erin Lang at erin.lang@knoxcac.org.

6. City Creates Ordinance for Tree Mitigation Bank

The City of Knoxville has passed a new ordinance to assure that all developers can adhere to the City's policy on greening up the neighborhoods around their developments.

With the City's existing [Tree Protection Ordinance](#), developers are required to plant or preserve six to eight trees. However, some developments make tree-planting or preservation difficult. For example, downtown developers looking to build up or a developer planning a development that covers an entire lot, struggle to find space to meet the Tree Protection requirements.

To remedy this problem, the new ordinance allows developers in situations like these to, instead, put in a request to contribute to the new “Tree Mitigation Bank.” If they truly cannot meet the City’s tree-planting requirements, they can put funding in the “Tree Mitigation Bank” for the City to plant the trees at a more workable nearby location.

The City’s Urban Forester Kasey Krouse will select the trees to plant, and be sure to pick the proper tree species and locations. The developer will then supply funds for the City’s forestry crew to plant at the nearby location.

The “Tree Mitigation Bank” will only be utilized in special locations. The hope is that it will help maintain and create green, environmentally friendly locations for all to enjoy.

7. BBB Cancelled; POH Mets January 29

The Better Building Board (BBB), which would have met on Thursday, Jan. 28, has been cancelled, as there was no business before the board.

The Public Officer Hearing (POH), scheduled for Friday, Jan. 29, will meet at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Click the [link](#) to join. Use passcode: 672542

There will be a laptop set up in the Small Assembly Room for members of the public who want to speak at the hearing but don't have their own access to technology. Anyone who wants to speak, please register with Cheri Burke in advance at 215-2867 or cmburke@knoxvilletn.gov.

Properties to be discussed are as follows: 304 Hartford Rd.; 2700 Island Home Ave. including accessory structures; 3107 Landview Dr.; 4607 Okey St. including accessory structure; 608 View Park Dr.; 463 Watauga Ave.; 4522 Asheville Hwy. – Boarded 11/20/20; 4249 Lilac Ave. – Boarded 11/12/20.

If you have information about these properties, you may testify on behalf of the situation.

8. KAT Fares to Resume Feb. 1

KAT will begin charging bus passenger fares again on Feb. 1. This reduced fare structure is expected to continue for at least six months. When fares change, Transfer Passes and 7-Day Passes will also be eliminated. The new fares will be as follows:

Fare Type	Regular Cost	Discounted Fare*
One Ride Pass	\$1.00	\$0.50
1 Day Pass	\$2.00	\$1.00
30 Day Pass	\$30.00	\$15.00
20 Ride Pass	\$15.00	\$7.50

You can pay for a One-Ride or 1-Day Pass upon boarding the bus, or get any pass at the Knoxville Station Ticket Vending Machine on the bus platform, the Knoxville Station Customer Service Counter, or by [mail](#).

* You may qualify for the discounted fare program if you are a senior age 65 or over, a Medicare card holder, a student under the age of 18, or a person with disabilities. Proper identification (Medicare card or a valid KAT ID card) is required before boarding.

To apply for the discounted fare program, please download, complete, and return the [Discounted Fare Application \(PDF\)](#) to the Knoxville Station Customer Service Counter at 301 Church Ave., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. KAT will charge a \$2 processing fee for all IDs. You can complete the [Discounted Fare Application form](#) online as well.

9. KKB Plans Monthly Talks and Spruce-Up Events

Are you looking for ways to stay environmentally engaged during these unusual times? Keep Knoxville Beautiful (KKB) has opportunities for you! With monthly “Thursday Talks” and “Saturday Spruce Up” events, KKB provides opportunities to learn about environmentally friendly practices while getting your hands dirty.

Interested in learning about compost? On Thursday, Feb. 18, from 10-11 a.m., via Zoom, listen to Kat McDearis from [Green Heron Compost](#) speak on everything you need to know about turning food scraps from your kitchen into compost for your garden. Learn more about Green Heron and gain pointers on starting your own home compost.

To sign up for the “Thursday Talks: Home Composting” webinar, click the [link](#).

Would you like to get your hands dirty and help beautify our city? February’s “Saturday Spruce Up” is headed to Mechanicsville. Starting in Danny Mayfield Park, 700 College St., at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, the cleanup will send volunteers to pick up litter and remove graffiti around the park and Mechanicsville area.

KKB will provide all supplies, but they ask that volunteers wear masks during supply distribution, wear closed-toed shoes during the spruce up, and bring water. KKB also asks that all volunteers pre-register on the [February Saturday Spruce Up](#) page.

Check out upcoming beatification events, clean-ups, and learning opportunities on the [KKB website](#).

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 or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours before the meeting you wish to attend. For an 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.*