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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.*

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### **1. The Neighborhood Conference Goes Virtual**

When we started planning for The Neighborhood Conference (TNC) back in the fall of 2020, we had hoped that Knoxville's COVID-19 numbers would be lower and that the vaccine would have been more widely available to neighbors.

Because that hasn't been the case, The Neighborhood Conference will be virtual this year. We will be using the online conference platform used by the Knoxville Convention Center's Audio Visual group, M&M. The Neighborhood Conference will be held on Saturday, March 27, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. You will be able to watch the opening ceremony, visit virtual booths, attend virtual workshops, see us announce the winners to the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award and the Neighborhood Achievement Awards. There will also be space to chat with other attendees.

Participants will still need to register, so we can provide you a link to the event. You will also have access to the platform for a week after the event in case you would like to view something again, or take notes from a booth, etc.

We will miss seeing you in person this year, but we are working to make the virtual event fun, inspiring, uplifting and helpful. While face-to-face networking is always preferable, we value this opportunity to learn more about online platforms and ways we

can use it, where appropriate, in the future. And that is a good thing! Be on the lookout for more details coming soon!

## **2. Do You Know How To Find Government Meeting Notes?**

Was there an item on the City Council Agenda that concerned you, but you were unable to watch the meeting? Or are you curious about a property in your neighborhood that was voted on at the most recent Planning meeting?

There is a simple way to go back and check how government meetings went. For City Council or Beer Board, you can look at their minutes, find the resolution or ordinance that you are interested in, determine if it passed, see who made the motion, and review any discussion. If you want a little more information about the resolution or ordinance, you can view the meeting minutes' packet as well. All this can be accessed via the [City's meeting portal](#).

You can also use this same portal to learn who serves on City Boards and Commissions, when they meet, and whether there are vacancies.

For meetings that fall under the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission, visit their [website](#) and select the meeting updates for the board or committee you are interested in under the boards + committees + plats tab. Then, select "meeting archives" and choose the date of the meeting you are interested in. This will provide you with the minutes, agenda, legal notices, public comments, and access to the Community Television of Knoxville (CTV) recording of the meeting.

Video recordings of many government meetings are available at [ctvknox.org](#). Scroll down to the bottom of the home page to find the meeting you wish to view. There are many pages of meetings, so you may have to go back a few pages if the meeting was a while back.

## **3. Neighborhood Achievement Award Nominations Due Feb. 12**

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) is accepting nominations for the Neighborhood Achievement Awards (NAA) through Friday, Feb. 12, no later than 4:30 p.m. Self-nominations are encouraged!

Don't miss this opportunity to receive recognition for the work your neighbors did during 2020 and during a pandemic.

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

To apply, fill out this [nomination form](#) and email it to Courtney Durrett at [cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto: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. 12. If you have questions or need a hard copy mailed to you, contact Courtney at 215-3232 or the above email.

We are excited to see what creative things you have done in 2020!

#### **4. ONE Requests Question Submissions for KPD Panel Workshop**

This year's 2021 Neighborhood Conference will be virtual (See article #1) and feature a workshop on "Learning More about KPD and PARC." Neighbors will have a chance to hear Chief Eve Thomas, Sgt. Amanda Bunch from Internal Affairs, Lt. John Shaffer, Officer Andrell Cummings, and Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC) Executive Director LaKenya Middlebrook explain their roles and answer community questions.

To ensure that the KPD and PARC panel answers community questions, we want to hear from you. If you plan to participate in the 2021 Neighborhood Conference and have a question for the KPD and PARC panel, please submit your questions to Courtney Durrett at [cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-3456.

Please note, due to time constraints, some questions may be consolidated or ordered by popularity.

We hope to see you at the 2021 Neighborhood Conference and look forward to hearing the community's questions for KPD and PARC.

#### **5. Deadline Fast Approaching for Community Agency Grants**

The [City of Knoxville](#) is accepting Community Agency Grants! Now through Thursday, Feb. 25, the City seeks applications from nonprofit organizations that provide arts, culture, health, and/or wellbeing to the Knoxville community.

Community Agency Grants are available in two categories and have two different grant applications: [arts and culture](#) or [community and social services](#). Nonprofits operating within Knoxville city limits for at least 5 years are eligible to apply. Neighborhoods with a 501(C)3 designation may qualify for this grant program.

Organizations that provide homelessness services, housing and other community development efforts should apply for the CDBG or Homeless Grants programs, posted [here](#); the deadline for those grant programs is Feb. 19.

To learn more and download an application, visit the City of Knoxville [Grant Applications Page](#). Applications are due by hand delivery by 4 p.m. on Feb. 25, to Jennifer Searle, in Suite 691 of the City County Building, 400 Main St. or by electronic copy. To submit electronically, save the PDF form file to your computer, fill out the form, save the form and then send as an attachment to [jsearle@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:jsearle@knoxvilletn.gov). Please include your organization's name on all digital file names.

For questions, contact Jennifer at [jsearle@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:jsearle@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2267

#### **6. COVID-19 Utility Relief Effort (CURE) Available**

If you are a Knoxville Utility Board (KUB) customer who has fallen behind on your bill during the pandemic, you may qualify for CAC's new CURE (COVID Utility Relief Effort) Program.

To apply for this program, you must complete an application through CAC's [website](#) and submit the required documentation.

Funds for this program are provided through KUB's Tennessee Valley Authority Pandemic Relief Credit.

Electric service must be provided by KUB to qualify. However, funds may be utilized to satisfy electric, gas, water and wastewater charges.

The following documentation must be provided:

- Copy of driver's license or photo ID
- A copy of your most recent utility bill(s)

You can copy, scan, or screenshot the above required documents and include them with the completed application.

For more information or to request an application, call 244-3085.

## **7. Council on Disabilities Seeks Members**

The Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (CODI) is accepting nominations to serve from now until March 1, 2024. Folks are encouraged to apply by filling out the [nomination form](#) and sending it to Misha Byrne at [mbyrne@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:mbyrne@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2423, or you can contact her to have a nomination form sent to you.

Regular CODI meetings are typically held at 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, in the City County Building's Small Assembly Room, however during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been meeting via Zoom.

Also, if you're an individual with a disability, family member, business owner, or employer of individuals with disabilities, CODI wants to hear your voice and learn more about what's happening in our community surrounding disability-related topics. You are welcome to attend a meeting, express your thoughts about this topic, and/or apply to be a CODI member. All meetings are open to the public!

To attend a meeting or to find out more about CODI, please visit their [website](#) or their [Facebook](#) page.

Members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council. Member terms are for three years, and members may serve up to two consecutive terms.

CODI was founded in 1984 to serve as an advisory council to the City of Knoxville on disability related programs and policies and regularly provides information to the City on concerns within the disability and senior communities

## **8. City Moves Forward with Phase 3 of Magnolia Ave. Streetscape**

At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26, City Council voted unanimously to authorize Mayor Indya Kincannon to enter into an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) to complete Phase 3 of the Magnolia Ave. Streetscape project.

Phase 3 will extend the project eastward another 1,265 feet, from Bertrand St. past Cruze St. and on to Kyle St. While the City will put \$1 million toward the \$5 million project, \$4 million will be provided through federal dollars.

Phase 3 will build on the first two phases of the project, implementing landscaped medians, left-turn lanes, wider sidewalks, trees, safer intersections, crosswalks, safer transit connectors, and bus shelters. City funding, totaling \$8.7 million, provided such improvements for the Jessamine St. to Bertrand St. section of Magnolia Ave. The partnership with TDOT allows the City to continue the project, eventually creating a streetscape from Jessamine St. all the way to Cherry St.

The public investment in infrastructure and beautification creates a safer, greener, and friendlier corridor to attract jobs and investors, which benefit all who live nearby.

Phase 3 is planned to begin in June with further right-of-way acquisition starting in the fall of 2022 and construction completed by 2024. The road will remain open throughout the process, but keep an eye out for more information on lane closures, route modifications, etc., when construction moves forward.

## **9. Knox County Students Can Ride KAT Free**

Mayor Indya Kincannon recently announced a new pilot program that will allow all Knox County students unlimited free rides on Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) buses until Dec. 31, 2021.

This program aims to increase student access to extracurricular activities, jobs, libraries, and more, while also lessening the economic burden on families.

New passes will be mailed to all Knox County Public School students in grades 6-12; younger students already ride for free. Students who are homeschooled or attend private school can also get a pass by visiting the Knoxville Station customer service counter at 301 Church Ave.

Students with disabilities that do not allow them to ride regular fixed-route bus service are eligible to receive a similarly structured Freedom Pass that applies to the KAT LIFT service. For more information about KAT LIFT, please call 637-3000.

To learn more about KAT bus routes, stops, and trip planning, visit their [website](#) or download the [KATbus Tracker App](#).

## **10. North Knoxville Hosts Community Cleanup**

The community-wide North Knoxville Cleanup will be held on Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. The event home-base will be at Edgewood Park, located at 3109 Ocoee Trail.

Keep Knoxville Beautiful (KKB) is looking for individuals, neighborhood groups, businesses, and more to participate!

There are three volunteer options: two to sign up as an individual, and one to sign up as a group. Groups and individuals must register to receive a designated cleanup location.

Participating groups will send a leader to Edgewood Park to pick up supplies and then meet their group at their designated neighborhood to pick up litter. Individuals who are not with groups can select to cleanup First Creek at Kroger or to clean the streets surrounding Edgewood Park.

KKB will provide litter pickers, gloves, garbage bags, and safety vests. Volunteers are asked to wear closed toed shoes, bring water, and please wear a mask.

To register, please follow the [link](#). ALL volunteers must register.

Please contact KKB at [outreach@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org](mailto:outreach@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org) or 521-6957 with any questions you may have. Participants of any age are welcome!

### **11. KUB to Inspect Utility Poles**

From now through late August, Knoxville Utility Board (KUB) contractor Davey Resource Group will be performing a visual inspection of nearly 75,000 KUB utility poles.

This extensive work will be performed within the Knoxville city limits, with crews beginning at the westernmost city perimeter near Middlebrook Pike and moving eastward. Crews will use marked vehicles with proper identification signifying that they are KUB contractors. Inspectors will need to evaluate the condition of each pole to determine if it needs maintenance work or replacement, which may require crews to intermittently exit their vehicles. This process may also include accessing easements off roads or behind houses.

Utility Pole Inspections will not require any interruption of service for customers. Regular pole inspection ensures the reliability of KUB's electric service. KUB is committed to maintaining all system infrastructure through the strategic evaluation and maintenance of assets like utility poles. To learn more about KUB's efforts to proactively locate and repair potentially damaged infrastructure through the Century II program, visit the [Century II website](#). To learn more about KUB's pole inspection process, visit [KUB Poles](#).

### **12. 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 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.*