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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. Meeting Tonight For Proposed Development In Inskip**

A second meeting to discuss the proposed development of affordable apartments in Inskip is scheduled for tonight, Tuesday, March 2, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

This meeting will continue discussions held on Feb. 1 with a development team led by David and Jake Varner of Southeast Capital LLC about their proposal to build 33 two-bedroom and 33 three-bedroom apartments. Most of the housing would be located at 806 E. Inskip Drive, with one apartment building to be constructed at 4810 Elder Road. You can watch the Feb. 1 presentation and discussion on [CTV's archives](#).

The proposed apartment complex would be affordable housing, meaning that qualified residents would pay no more than 30 percent of their income on rent. To make the project possible, developers are requesting assistance through the City's Affordable Rental Development Fund. Southeast Capital LLC was formed specifically to develop and build affordable housing.

To access the zoom meeting, click the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99924475857?pwd=Uk9ZZWxKUGs4ellQMXg3emd5L214dz09>

Passcode: 916399

Or call in: 1-301-715-8592

The meeting will also be streamed live and archived through CTV at [www.ctvknox.org](http://www.ctvknox.org).

You can learn more about the City's investments in affordable housing developments at [KnoxvilleTN.gov/housing](http://KnoxvilleTN.gov/housing).

## **2. West Hills Hosts Virtual Plays**

The West Hills Neighborhood has invented a creative way to bring people together in a COVID-19 safe way while giving neighbors the chance to make their acting debut. Hosting monthly performances via Zoom, interested neighbors are given a script to do a dramatic reading for their role. Neighbors can also participate as audience members.

Neighbor Mark Littmann, who is a writing professor at UT, started writing neighborhood plays as a fun way to make a book club more interactive. He and his wife, Peggy Littmann, decided to share this idea with the neighborhood. The first virtual performance in January, called "One Giant Leap: The Impossible Mission That Flew Us to the Moon," was about the untold stories that made the moon landing possible.

They also performed a play in February about a Wall Street banker who discovers corruption and takes action called "Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt." The play they have planned for March, called "Something Wonderful: Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution," is about how Rodgers and Hammerstein created their famous musicals.

Way to go, West Hills! Innovative and fun activities like this keep us all connected during difficult times! Consider acting out your own plays or skits over Zoom in your neighborhood.

If your neighborhood has found a creative way to safely connect with neighbors or is planning an event in the future, let us know. We would love to spread the word on all the fun creative ways you are finding to celebrate your neighborhood. You can email [neighborhoods@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@knoxvilletn.gov) or call 215-3232 to tell us about your project or activity.

## **3. Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Elects New Board Members**

**Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization** held their annual neighborhood meeting on Monday, Feb. 15, and elected five new board members.

Congratulations to newly elected members: Gabrielle Boudreau, Jamey Dobbs, Lacy Mellon, Ashley Wagstaffe, and Melynda Whetsel.

Thank you to remaining board members: Sam Crockett, Charles Griffin, Mike Holden, Daniel Howett, Jen Mowrer, and Marika Suval.

The organization thanks Gordon Coker, Joe Miles and Brent Waugh, whose terms ended this year, for their service to the neighborhood board.

The new board held their first meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 24, to elect new officers. Congratulations to the new and continuing Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Officers:

- President: Sam Crockett

- Vice-President: Mike Holden
- Treasurer: Chris Griffin
- Secretary: Marika Suval

The Fourth and Gill Neighborhood is dedicated to building and sustaining their urban community by promoting historic preservation, supporting health and wellness, creating urban wilderness space, hosting engaging community events, and more. Good luck to the new board and officers in working to continue the organization's missions and engagement!

If your neighborhood has recently held an election or plans to hold one soon, please let the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) know! Email Eden at [eslater@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:eslater@knoxvilletn.gov), and we will publish your results.

#### **4. Roseberry City Uses Neighborhood Grant to Plant Community Roses**

On Saturday, March 6, **Roseberry City Connection Community Organization** will get a special delivery of roses!

In an effort to beautify the historic neighborhood, Roseberry City applied for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP) through the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) to fund roses and a neighborhood sign for the Roseberry City area. The neighborhood near Sharp's Ridge was once well known for its proliferation of rose bushes.

Funding from the NSGP will purchase roses to be planted in rows across numerous neighbors' yards and in front of the First Baptist Church of Roseberry City (where the neighborhood hosts their meetings) in order to create a "rose hedge" for the Roseberry City area.

#### **5. Neighborhood Advisory Council Meets Next Week**

The Neighborhood Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, March 10, from 4:30-6 p.m. via Zoom.

Are you a fan of the Knoxville greenway system? Would you like to learn more about them? Join us to hear from Tim Hester, the City of Knoxville Greenway Coordinator, and learn all about the greenway systems we enjoy.

All are welcome to [Zoom](#) in with us. Passcode: 256345. Or, you may call in using this number: 1-301-715-8592

If time allows, attendees will be able to ask questions in the webinar, as well.

For more information or if you have trouble with the zoom link for this meeting, contact Debbie Sharp, 215-4382 or [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov).

#### **6. Five Organizations Sponsor the 2021 Neighborhoods Conference**

Way back in 2020, numerous sponsors stepped forward to help fund the 2020 Neighborhoods Conference. After the event was canceled due to COVID-19, five sponsors chose to hold their sponsorship for the 2021 Neighborhood Conference.

While this year's conference on March 27 will be different, sponsorships still help fund the online platform, souvenir Neighborhood Conference masks (given out to the top 10 neighborhoods who sign up for the conference) and more!

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) would like to give a big shout out to the following 2021 Neighborhood Conference Sponsors:

- Gold Level Sponsor: Three Rivers Market
- Bronze Level Sponsor: Compass Knox
- Bronze Level Sponsor: Mast General Store
- Bronze Level Sponsor: UT Federal Credit Union
- Media Sponsor: WATE

ONE appreciates your commitment to community connectivity and thanks you for supporting the 2021 Neighborhood Conference!

[Sign up](#) for the Neighborhood Conference today, and don't forget to invite your neighbors!

## **7. What is WellKnox?**

Tennessee ranks 44th in the country for overall health. Drawing inspiration from the state's Healthier TN program, started by former Governor Haslam in 2013, the City of Knoxville aims to engage the local community in improving residents' health through a neighborhood-led initiative.

The WellKnox program is designed to bring neighbors together while implementing sustainable changes in the community that help residents live healthier, happier lives.

Neighborhood organizations currently registered with the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) or new organizations can achieve WellKnox recognition by:

- Establishing a Neighborhood Wellness Committee
- Planning and implementing three initiatives concerning different aspects of overall health
- Spreading the word about your Wellness Plan to neighbors using a marketing plan

The ONE will be available as a resource for any questions or guidance needed.

Once your group has brainstormed, planned and successfully completed three initiatives, you will receive recognition from the City of Knoxville and be designated a WellKnox Neighborhood. You will also be recognized at the annual Neighborhoods Conference and have the potential to apply to the Neighborhood Small Grants Program money to fund WellKnox projects.

Currently the WellKnox program is going through a trial run with several neighborhoods. If you are interested in participating in this program next year, notify Katie Catron at [kcatron@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:kcatron@knoxvilletn.gov).

## **8. Tennessee Participates in VaccineFinder**

Are you in a category that qualifies you for a COVID-19 vaccine, but aren't sure where to get one? Do you plan to get a vaccine for COVID-19 when your turn comes up? Do you know where to get one?

Tennessee is one of several states participating in [VaccineFinder](#).

To find area locations providing appointments to get the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the website and type in your zip code. It will bring up 30-plus locations in and around Knoxville, including the Knox County Health Department, which is maintaining a [Waiting List](#) for Knox County residents seeking vaccinations through KCHD and its partners. KCHD is currently vaccinating people in Phases 1a1, 1a2, 1b or those who are 65 years and older.

Next to the listing, it will say if the location is in-stock or out-of-stock. Click on a location to get additional information. This page will also show you which vaccine you are likely to receive, Moderna or Pfizer.

Click "Check Appointment Availability" and then answer the questions about your eligibility. If you are eligible, you will be allowed to request an appointment and it will give you the option for the Knox County Health Department (to sign up on the waiting list to be contacted about upcoming opportunities to make an appointment) or VaccineFinder. Choose VaccineFinder to see which pharmacies are available.

## **9. Trees Knoxville Offers Virtual Volunteer Forester Classes**

Beginning Wednesday, March 24, [Trees Knoxville](#) will offer its popular Volunteer Forester class virtually!

Trees Knoxville offers the Volunteer Forester Training Program to develop tree management skills in neighbors in our community. Trees Knoxville relies on the expertise of our Volunteer Foresters at tree plantings to work with volunteers, teaching them proper tree planting and mulching. You will receive a certificate at the end of the course. If you attend one volunteer event, you will receive your Trees Knoxville Volunteer Forester green shirt!

Many people simply take the class because they love trees and want to learn more. Volunteerism is optional and not necessary to receive the class certificate.

What will you learn?

**Session 1:** March 24, 6-7 p.m.

Introduction to Trees Knoxville & Knoxville's Urban Forest  
Dr. McKinney, University of Tennessee

**Session 2:** March 31, 6-7 p.m.

Tree Selection and Proper Tree Planting  
Kasey Krouse, City of Knoxville Urban Forester

**Session 3:** April 7, 6-7 p.m.  
The Science and Art of Pruning  
Dr. Paul Ries, Insightful Nature LLC

**Session 4:** April 14, 6-7 p.m.  
Tree Health and Invasive Species  
Nick St. Sauveur and Kitty McCracken

**Session 5:** April 17, 9-11 a.m.  
Overview of Topics in the Field  
Location to be announced.

The virtual class cost is \$25, a 50-percent discount from “in person” classes.

If you are concerned about the cost of the class, financial aid is available. Please email [treesknoxville@gmail.com](mailto:treesknoxville@gmail.com) for details.

There are two ways to pay for class. Online or via mail:

Online Payment: [Click here](#).

Checks can be mailed to: Trees Knoxville, P.O. BOX 26313, Knoxville TN 37912

Register to become a Volunteer Forester today!

**[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](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.*