

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 14, No. 10 – Tuesday, March 9, 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. Less than Two Weeks to Register for The Neighborhood Conference!

Are you registered for the 2021 Neighborhood Conference? Now is the time to sign up and make sure you don't miss out on this year's unique community engagement opportunity.

The 2021 Neighborhood Conference will be held virtually on Saturday, March 27, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Things may look a little different, but this year the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) is working hard to bring you the connectivity, workshops, awards, door prizes, and information booths you've come to expect from The Neighborhood Conference.

This year's conference will feature a Welcoming Ceremony, the Neighborhood Achievement Awards, Neighbor of the Year Award, and guest speakers, all recorded and in a "virtual conference room." You will also have the opportunity to connect via chat rooms with other attendees while viewing the booths.

Join us for this year's Neighborhood Conference; click [here](#) to register! Make sure to share the link with your neighborhood and register today!

2. Neighborhood Conference Filming Has Begun

If you have attended Zoom meetings, held FaceTime visits with friends or attended formerly in-person events from your computer screen, you can imagine the unusual experience we've had preparing for the virtual 2021 Neighborhood Conference.

Last week, Conference Planner Courtney Durrett and Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp met with Mayor Kincannon, workshop presenters and neighborhood representatives to record several of the videos that will premiere during the Neighborhood Conference on March 27. Two of the workshops, the morning welcome, and the awards ceremony are all ready for the virtual conference.

We send a huge thank you to Community Television of Knoxville (CTV) for doing the filming and helping with edits. Please keep in mind, we are not professional content producers, so any grace you can spare for us as you watch the show will be greatly appreciated.

Our main goal is to have great content that will help those who watch.

We look forward to chatting with you at The Neighborhood Conference in a few weeks.

3. Tell Us Your Neighborhood's History

Do you know some old stories from your neighborhood? Do you have historic buildings, the home of a famous Knoxville person, or even some generational tales? Share it!

The **South Haven Neighborhood Association** has embarked on a historical journey to learn more about the history of their neighborhood area. Working with Blank Newspaper and the Knoxville History Project, South Haven is both researching and reaching out for local stories to paint a picture of South Haven through the years.

Every Knoxville neighborhood has a rich history worth investigating. Reach out to the [Knoxville History Project](#) (KHP) to learn more about your area, compile neighborhood stories, and more. KHP has already compiled stories from the Bearden-area neighborhoods and is working with South Haven to create a South Knoxville history project, as well.

KHP has offered to host Zoom dialogues to discuss South Knoxville history with the group, and South Haven is planning an event later in the year to celebrate the rich history of their area.

What are some fun ways your neighborhood can celebrate its history? Let us know your thoughts.

4. Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) is Hiring:

Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) is the City of Knoxville's public transportation system, operating buses, trolleys, and paratransit service across the city, and they are hiring!

To see a full list of current employment opportunities you can visit KAT's website, or click the following [link](#).

5. Mobility Plan 2045 Seeks Your Input

A [draft of the Mobility Plan](#) 2045, the region's long-range transportation plan that is updated every four years, is available for public feedback until Wednesday, April 7.

This update will guide transportation investments in the region for the next 25 years.

Last fall, local jurisdictions submitted their potential projects to be included in the plan, and then projects were selected and prioritized based on both technical analysis and public input. You can access all the proposed projects and information on [an interactive map](#), where you can filter projects specific to your area and leave comments directly from the map.

To provide more information about the draft plan, and to give community members an opportunity to speak to staff about specific topics or projects, a series of virtual meetings has been scheduled throughout March.

Transportation Tuesdays will be hosted at noon for three Tuesdays in the month, each focusing on a different theme relating to the plan. There will also be two Virtual Town Hall events held at the end of the month. These will allow participants to move into breakout rooms organized by county to find out more about specific projects that are important to them. Finally, the regularly scheduled TPO Technical Committee and Executive Board Meetings will be open to the public.

Transportation Tuesdays:

Tuesday, March 9, 12 p.m. – Mobility Plan 2045 Overview

Tuesday, March 16, 12 p.m. – Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit

Tuesday, March 23, 12 p.m. – Streets and Highways

Virtual Town Halls:

Thursday, March 25, 12 p.m. – County specific project overview

Thursday, March 25, 5 p.m. – County specific project overview

Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

Tuesday, March 9, 9 a.m. – TPO Technical Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 9 a.m. – TPO Executive Board Meeting

You must register for any of these meetings and to do that, visit the [website](#).

6. City Updates Community on Public Safety Complex

Have you wondered what is happening at the old St. Mary's Hospital site?

The last weekday in February was nicknamed "Pour Day," because that was the day when Al Blankenship Enterprises employees poured 100 cubic yards of concrete at the Public Safety Complex reconstruction site. Check out the City's Blog Post for more on the "[Pour Day](#)" story.

Last weekend, the City shared some Lincoln Memorial University concept renderings by Sparkman and Associates Architects of what the former St. Mary's grounds may look like in the near future. LMU offers nursing classes in the Magdalen Clarke Tower, and the college envisions a lush green quadrangle-like public space to the west of the tower. To see more about the LMU concept, visit the [City Blog story](#).

The City will continue to update this blog, so feel free to check back on a regular basis.

7. National 3-1-1 Day Coming Up March 11

On Thursday, March 11 (3/11), the City of Knoxville's 311 Center for Service and Innovation will celebrate National 311 Day by educating the public on the importance of the City's phone number.

311 is the City's main resource hotline. 311 creates a one-stop shop for residents to report a pothole or blighted property on their street, request a sidewalk be repaired or created, request a building permit, check the schedule for trash or recycling pickup, and on and on. In 2020, 311 operators also stepped up to help field calls on the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 Census.

The East Tennessee area's 211 Social Services hotline is also housed in 311 Center for Service and Innovation, helping connect callers to much-needed social service needs, including rental and food assistance during the pandemic.

311 plans a big announcement on Thursday, so stay tuned! Visit 311 [online](#) for more resources and ways 311 can be useful to you.

Have a city-related issue? Call 3-1-1!

8. Save the Date for Mayor's State of the City Address

Be sure to mark your calendars for Friday, April 23, when Mayor Indya Kincannon will give her State of the City address.

As part of the address, she will introduce her second budget to the City of Knoxville. To stay up to date, you can check the [website](#) as information becomes available.

9. City Council to Hold Workshop on Homelessness

City Council will hold a workshop on homeless services next Thursday, March 18, at 4 p.m., via Zoom.

If you wish to speak at this workshop, you can register with the City's Recorder Office either by phone at 215-2075 or email at wjohnson@knoxvilletn.gov by 4 p.m. on March 18. Your contact information will be required to send you the Zoom information, then you will be able to join either through the Zoom application or by phoning in to the meeting.

You can also watch the meeting on CTV at www.ctvknox.org.

10. Keep Knoxville Beautiful Sponsors South Knox Clean-up

[Keep Knoxville Beautiful](#) (KKB) is sponsoring the [South Knoxville Community Clean-up](#) on Saturday, April 17, based out of Sam Duff Park, 4060 Chapman Hwy, from 9 a.m.-12 noon.

KKB is looking for individuals, neighborhood groups, businesses, and more to participate. Sign-ups close on Friday, April 9. KKB will provide all materials, such as trash bags, gloves, and litter pickers.

Participating groups will send a leader to Sam Duff Park to pick up supplies and then meet their group at their designated neighborhood to pick up litter.

Individuals who are not with groups will do a clean-up at Mary Vestal Park, 401 Maryville Pike. This will be the meeting location for individual volunteers.

[Registration](#) is required.

Contact KKB at outreach@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org or 521-6957 with any questions. Participants of any age are welcome! We look forward to seeing those who live, work, or play in South Knoxville, as well as anyone who just wants to lend a helping hand.

Thank you to KKB's generous sponsors! Aslan Foundation, Three Rivers Market, Tennessee Valley Authority, First Neighborhoods Realty, Borderlands T's, SoKno Taco Cantina, CrossFit Knoxville, and Computer Systems Plus.

KKB thanks their partners: City of Knoxville, Knox County Government, and Nobody Trashes Tennessee.

11. City Seeks Input on Community Climate Strategies

Air quality can have a major impact on Knoxville residents. In an effort to fight climate change and improve air quality, City Council in 2019 adopted a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050. To help the City succeed in this effort, Mayor Kincannon launched a Mayor's Climate Council, a group of more than 65 local leaders and technical experts to identify climate strategies in the Knoxville area.

Alongside these efforts, the City wants to make sure we are working towards climate strategies that make sense for our community. The Office of Sustainability would like to hear your ideas and priorities!

Click the [link](#) to complete a 20-minute survey on Community Climate Strategies, and share which areas you think the City should focus on in the upcoming years.

12. Empower Knox Initiative Seeks Applicants for Youth Council

The City's Empower Knox initiative seeks young people ages 12-20 to apply to serve on the first-ever City of Knoxville Youth Council.

The Youth Council will create a platform for high-performing and high-potential young people to have meaningful and effective roles in the City's policy and decision-making

processes. Council members will collaboratively identify and address issues around community organizing, leadership and advocacy. As representatives of Knoxville's youth, Council members will be responsible for elevating all youth voices through consistent communication with other youth.

Empower Knox is an initiative within the City's Community Empowerment department that works with area community groups to provide opportunities for young people to achieve in school, in work and in the community.

The deadline to apply is Monday, March 15. Download an application [here](#) or at KnoxvilleTN.gov/EmpowerKnox.

If parents, guardians, teachers or young people have questions about the Youth Council or the application, please contact Community Engagement Manager Kathy Mack at kmack@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-3524.

13. 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.*