

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 14, No. 14 – Tuesday, April 6, 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. No Newsletter Next Week

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment will not produce a newsletter next week, but we will be back on track with a newsletter on Tuesday, April 20.

2. ONE Hosts Workshop to Engage Neighbors This Week

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment will be hosting a workshop this Thursday, April 8, from 6-8 p.m., via Zoom on different ways to get your neighbors engaged.

Engaging neighbors can be challenging, especially when you can't meet in person. However, there are still many ways to get people more involved! This workshop will present 6-7 different ideas to spark interest in your group.

Here are some of the topics you will learn about: National Wildlife Certification for all those who love the outdoors, Adopt a Road through Keep Knoxville Beautiful for all those who have a passion for clean-ups, and how to engage with developers to get the best possible win-win situation as development happens. There will be other speakers talking about different ways to engage folks virtually, how to engage youth, how to help when times are tough, etc.

Hearing one of these speakers could help you glean ideas that could work in your neighborhood.

This workshop was originally intended for The Neighborhood Conference, but due to its interactive nature, we decided to hold a separate workshop!

The deadline to register is Wednesday, April 7 at 4 p.m. so make sure you get signed up! If you would like to register for this workshop, please email Courtney Durrett at cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov to reserve your spot.

3. Neighborhood Advisory Council Meets Next Week

The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) will meet next week on Wednesday, April 14, at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom.

For this month, NAC will be hearing from the team of City staff working on Violence Interruption in the community.

All are invited and welcome to attend. Comments and questions will be made by the NAC members first. If time allows, questions or comments can be taken from the attendees.

The NAC meets monthly. Members are appointed by the Mayor to serve three-year terms giving advice about neighborhood issues to the City's administration and returning valuable information back to their neighborhoods.

For more information or if you would like the Zoom link for this meeting, contact Debbie Sharp, 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

4. Enjoy KORE with Mayor K

What is KORE, you might ask? It stands for Knoxville Outdoor Recreation Experience (KORE).

One of the main goals for the City's Parks and Recreation Department is to improve recreation opportunities for all Knoxvilleians.

To aid in this mission, the Knoxville Outdoor Recreation Experience (KORE) program was created.

The KORE program encourages residents to enjoy all of the many outdoor recreational opportunities in Knoxville!

There are several options for all different ages, condition levels, and sport preferences. See the City's webpage for details about the different [KORE 50/100 challenges](#), and find one you might like to try.

Six City parks will host KORE with Mayor K events in April and early May to encourage neighbors to get outside and utilize their local parks. Activities will include KORE Mobile

games, art in the park, and enjoying the various amenities that each park offers (for example, tennis if the park has tennis courts).

Join in a KORE event near you:

- Wednesday, April 7 - Cumberland Estates Park
- Tuesday, April 13 - Sam Duff Park
- Saturday, April 17 - Holston River Park
- Tuesday, April 27 - Edgewood Park
- Thursday, April 29 - Inskip Park
- Saturday, May 8 - Morningside Park

Weeknight events will be held 5-6:30 p.m. Saturday events are 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Any rained out events may be rescheduled after May 8.

5. \$14.1 Million in Housing Relief Available In Knox County

Knox Housing Assistance is accepting applications for COVID-19 housing-related relief for renters and landlords. Relief funding is available for all eligible city and county residents who need assistance paying past due rent and/or utility expenses, for up to 12 months of assistance. Depending on fund availability, in emergency situations support for future payments may be made available, as well. This funding will be available until all funds have been reserved.

Knox Housing Assistance is a joint effort between the City of Knoxville and Knox County working to administer \$14.1 million from the U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Who can apply? Income qualified residents of the City of Knoxville or Knox County where one or more individuals in the household experienced one or more of the following due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Have qualified for unemployment benefits
- Experienced a reduction in income
- Incurred significant costs
- Experienced other financial hardships directly or indirectly

What do I need to apply? All applicants must present the following documentation:

- Valid government issued photo ID
- Rent or lease agreement
- Documentation of past-due rent
- Copy of past due utility bill/s
- Income documentation

For a list of income requirements and to apply, please visit KnoxvillehousingAssistance.org.

6. Bike Walk Knoxville Hosts Spring Bike Tour with Elected Officials

The weather is warming up, why not dust off your bicycle and enjoy the sunshine! To help show bikeable and walkable routes, explore City projects, and give an opportunity

to get to know your local policy makers, Bike Walk Knoxville hosts Tours with Elected Officials.

You are invited to join City Council Members, County Commissioners, and the Mayor to explore the new-and-improved Cumberland Avenue on Tuesday, April 13, at 6 p.m. for the Spring Bike Tour. Bring your bike, helmet, and water bottle to Tyson Park at 6 p.m. and ride the 5-mile loop from Tyson Park through Fort Sanders and World's Fair Park to Market Square, back to Tyson Park through World's Fair Park and on Cumberland Avenue.

The top-to-bottom \$25 million Cumberland Avenue reconstruction project four years ago helped leverage more than \$200 million in private investment. It also eliminated traffic snarls by adding turn lanes and better traffic light signalization, and it built wide sidewalks and added trees and landscaping.

But likely of interest to Bike Walk Knoxville: The upgrades made the corridor safer. The average annual number of crashes involving people walking or bicycling fell 78 percent. Traffic crashes of all types fell 44 percent.

All community members are welcome to join the April 13 bike ride! Please plan to wear appropriate shoes and clothing for the ride.

In addition to the tour, Bike Walk Knoxville is also seeking input on the Cumberland Avenue Streetscape project. Do your personal experiences coincide with or differ from the traffic safety statistics? What can or should be done to make the Cumberland Avenue corridor more pedestrian and bike friendly? Let the Council Members and Mayor know by filling out a brief [survey](#).

For more on the upcoming Spring Bike Tour with Elected Officials, visit Bike Walk Knoxville's [website](#).

7. CTV LIVE Treasure Hunt Auction has Begun

Looking for some new treasures or looking to sell some old? Want a fun way to raise money for your neighborhood? Check out the 2021 CTV Neighborhood Treasure Hunt & Online Auction!

Bidding is underway and will continue through Friday, April 23, for the Treasure Hunt's Live Virtual Auction! You and your neighbors can register to bid, see what treasures await, and register your treasures. Treasures can be jewelry, clothes, furniture, crafts, or anything else you can find to sell and raise money for your neighborhood!

The Treasure Hunt allows you to designate which neighborhood organization proceeds from your purchases go toward. Register today to access your credentials to bid on the more than 125 donated treasures showcased at ctvknox.org/hunt. To register or bid, visit the Treasure Hunt [website](#).

8. Grab a Bag of Books!

You can support Knox County Public Library by shopping for online grab bags and special collections!

The Knox County Public Library's online bookstore is a safe way to provide books to shoppers. It also helps reduce inventory so libraries can begin to accept book donations again.

Once an order has been placed, the library will contact you and let you know when your order has been filled and is ready for pickup. Most orders take one week to be filled. To shop grab bags and special collections click [link](#).

9. Police Advisory Review Committee Quarterly Meeting

The Police Advisory Review Committee's (PARC) quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 22, at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

To request to speak during the public forum portion of a PARC meeting, contact PARC Executive Director LaKenya Middlebrook at 215-3869 or via email at lmiddlebrook@knoxvilletn.gov. Confirmed speakers will receive instructions via email on how to log into the meeting.

The Zoom link will be posted to the City of Knoxville calendar.

10. TDOT Seeks Feedback on Statewide Active Transportation Plan

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) wants to hear from you on their statewide plan to improve walking, biking, and rolling in Tennessee. The Statewide Active Transportation Plan (STAP) highlights TDOT's multimodal policies, plans and programs, as well as addresses goals and strategies for the upcoming year.

To view the 2021 STAP, click the [link](#). TDOT is accepting public comments on the plan now through Friday, April 23. To leave a comment, please visit the [STAP comments page](#)

11. Know These Important Election Dates

There are some important City Elections coming up this year about which to take note. For the **Primary Election in August**, City Council - Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 will be on the ballot. In this election, voters will vote for their district only; voters in City Council District 5 do not vote in this election.

Please note the following voting deadlines:

- Thursday, May 20, at NOON – Petition Deadline for candidates
- Thursday, May 27, at NOON – Withdrawal Deadline
- Wednesday, June 2 - First day to request an absentee ballot
- Monday, Aug. 2 - Final day to register to vote before election
- Wednesday, August 11 - First day of Early Voting period
- Tuesday, Aug. 24 - Final day to request an absentee ballot
- Thursday, Aug. 26 - Final day of Early Voting period
- Tuesday, Aug. 31 - Election Day

For the **General Election in November**, all registered voters in the City of Knoxville, including voters in District 5, will be able to vote in all five races on the ballot.

- Wednesday, Aug. 4 - First day to request an absentee ballot
- Monday, Oct. 4 - Final day to register to vote before election
- Wednesday, Oct. 13 - First day of Early Voting period
- Tuesday, Oct. 26 - Final day to request an absentee ballot
- Thursday, Oct. 28 - Final day of Early Voting period
- Tuesday, Nov. 2 - Election Day

To see who has picked up petitions in your district and others, visit the Knox County Election Commission's website for [candidates](#).

12. KKB Hosts the First-Ever Third Creek Clean Paddle!

[Keep Knoxville Beautiful](#) (KKB) will be hosting their first-ever Third Creek Clean Paddle as part of the Great Knoxville Cleanup on Saturday, May 15, from 10 a.m. – Noon. The group will meet in the UT Gardens parking lot, 2518 Jacob Drive. Please contact KKB at outreach@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org or 521-6957 with any questions.

Kayaks and paddleboards will be provided thanks to the Knoxville Adventure Collective! Volunteers will either be in the creek or walk along the greenway. Sign up [here](#).

Keep Knoxville Beautiful will provide the following equipment:

- litter pickers
- gloves
- garbage bags
- safety vests
- waders

KKB highly recommends wearing long pants, and all volunteers must wear closed-toed shoes for the event. Please bring your own sunscreen, bug protection, and water. Group policy: For those wanting to sign up a group, every person in the group must sign up directly with KKB. The sign-up includes the volunteer waiver that ALL volunteers must sign prior to the event. Those who are not listed on the volunteer sign-up may have to wait until all signed-up volunteers have arrived and checked in to receive supplies.

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.*