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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. Community Works to Revitalize Citizens Cemetery

The Citizens Cemetery in East Knoxville's Morningside Heights neighborhood is a historic African American Cemetery founded in 1836 as a place of rest for both freemen and enslaved people buried in the 1800s. Unfortunately, the cemetery has been neglected for years and needs a lot of help.

The Knoxville Re-Animation Coalition, Inc. is managing and organizing cemetery clean-up events with the help of Trees Knoxville, Earthadelic, and UT Public Health Graduate Student Association. On Saturday, April 24, a skilled group will be taking on a massive invasive plant removal.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information on upcoming clean-ups to be held on future Saturdays. For more information, questions, or to volunteer, please contact George Kemp at 865-523-1934 or kempge2232@gmail.com.

2. South Haven Plans Series of Neighborhood Events

Coming up the weekend of April 23-24, **South Haven Neighborhood Association** is planning a fun series of events to get neighbors outside and bring them together.

On Friday, April 23, from 5-8 p.m., at Dogwood Elementary, 705 Tipton Ave, the group is planning the “Roots in South Knoxville” event. This free, family-friendly event will feature children’s activities, free kids’ books, and guided nature hikes.

Food will be provided by Chef Mo’s Food Truck and Ms. Aguayo’s Tamales & Plant/Seed Share. Participants are invited to bring plants, seeds, veggie starters, etc. to exchange at the plant/seed share. Everyone is welcome, and you do not need a plant to participate.

Participating neighborhood partners include: Beardsley Farms, City of Knoxville Waste & Resource Management, Community Schools, Dogwood Elementary PTO, Keep Knoxville Beautiful, Knox County Health Department, Hillcrest UMC, Lindbergh Forest Neighborhood, Native Plant Rescue Squad, Sierra Club, South Knoxville Neighborhood & Business Coalition, **South Woodlawn Neighborhood, South Haven Neighborhood, Trees Knoxville, and the Vestal Community Organization.**

The following day, Saturday, April 24, at 9 a.m., South Haven will host a community cleanup to beautify the neighborhood parks and trails. Meeting at the Hillcrest Methodist Church on Price Ave., Keep Knoxville Beautiful will provide gloves, pickers, bags and safety vests. While all trash will be collected, a prize will be awarded to the person who picks up the most cigarette butts. Please wear sturdy shoes and sunscreen.

For more information on these events and other fun South Haven happenings, visit the [Friends of South Haven Facebook page](#).

3. Register for Neighborhood Small Grant Program Mandatory Meetings

Has your neighborhood considered a unique project? Do you have the perfect spot for a mural, a space for a community garden, a park that needs updated equipment, a great event idea to connect neighbors, or another idea unique to your neighborhood?

Consider applying for the [Neighborhood Small Grants Program](#) (NSGP). In order to qualify to apply, you must attend one of three mandatory workshops. Dates and times are as follows:

- Saturday, April 24, at 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 28, at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, May 6, at 6 p.m.

These will be held via zoom and you should register for one with Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382.

The NSGP offers neighborhood grants from \$500 to \$3,000 (or up to \$4,500 if you partner with another neighborhood organization or non-profit) for projects that engage and encourage neighborhood togetherness and community. To apply for the NSGP, all applicants must be resident-led, resident-controlled, and democratically run neighborhood organizations and attend a mandatory grant workshop.

4. Lend a Helping Hand to Bees

Did you know that there are over 4,000 types of native bees in the United States?

These native bees are responsible for pollinating around 80% of flowering plant species in the world, and about 75% of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts that we eat. However, most people don't know very much about native bees and how to support them.

Unlike the well-known honeybee, most native bees do not live in large hives with other bees, but alone in small nests carved into soil and wood. These bees tend to be tiny, do not have queens or produce honey, and rarely sting.

Unfortunately, these hard-working bees that contribute to more than a third of the food we eat are in danger due to disease, climate change, pesticides, and loss of habitats. However, there are ways you can help.

- Native bees need a variety of nectar from early spring through the fall, and they prefer native plants. Be sure to plant a wide variety of native plants in your gardens to support your local bees.
- Native bees typically build their nests in small holes on open, sandy ground or in brush piles, tree snags, logs or excavated twigs. You can help supplement these natural nest sites with bundles of hollow plant stems or wooden mason-bee houses. Reduce mulching, mowing and tilling that may destroy nests or future nesting sites.
- Insecticides kill bees directly and herbicides kill the plants that bees rely on. Reducing the use of these or avoiding the use of these chemicals in your garden or yard can be helpful for the bees.
- Although bees are very important to our lives, many species are declining in number. You can help scientists learn more about these bees so they can prevent their decline by reporting bees you see in your garden to the citizen-science project [Bumble Bee Watch](#).

If you're interested in learning more about the importance of native bees, check out [this article](#) by the National Wildlife Federation.

Also, if you are interested in learning about more ways to protect wildlife, contact The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment to learn how your backyard and even your neighborhood can become a [Certified Wildlife Habitat](#). You can contact us at 215-3232 or neighborhoods@knoxvilletn.gov to learn more!

5. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets This Week

The [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) (BZA) meeting will be today, Tuesday, March 16 at 4 p.m., via Zoom. Anyone interested in viewing the online meeting or participating in this online meeting can join by clicking the [link](#) and using this passcode 926774.

BZA will consider the following petitions for variance of requirements: 4914 N. Broadway; 633 & 639 Mars Hill Rd.; 4605 Central Ave. Pike; 602 Caswell Ave.; 705 Deery St.

Please contact Juliana LeClair at 215-2988 or jleclair@knoxvilletn.gov with questions.

The next BZA meeting will be on May 18.

6. Police Advisory Review Committee Meets This Week

The Police Advisory Review Committee (PARC) will meet this Thursday, April 22, at 6 p.m. via Zoom for their first Quarterly Meeting of 2021.

All are welcome to attend the meeting.

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.

7. HND Hosts Council Workshop on Annual Plan

City of Knoxville Housing and Neighborhood Development is in the process of developing the 2021-2022 (Year Two) Annual Action Plan, describing the proposed use of US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds.

A draft of the plan is available for a 30-day comment period, starting April 2 and ending on May 1. To review Year Two of the five-year Annual Action plan, click [here](#).

To learn more about the year two Annual Action Plan, attend the City Council Workshop on Wednesday, April 29, at 5:30 p.m., in person at the Main Assembly Room in the City County Building, 400 Main Ave. Check the [Housing and Neighborhood Development](#) website for more details.

Everyone is encouraged to join.

The plan expands upon funding the City of Knoxville expects to receive for the July 2021-July 2022 fiscal Year. Starting July 1, 2021, the City expects to receive \$1,787,837 in CDBG, \$1,124, 871 in HOME, and \$150,252 in ESG funds for the July 2021-July 2022 fiscal year. Additionally, the plan highlights other monies the City may receive, including \$100,000 in CDBG program income, \$500,000 in Home program income, and uncommitted funding from the 2020-2021-year grant.

The draft Annual Action Plan will propose allocations of the above listed HUD funding across priority areas, addressing homelessness, affordable housing, housing and rental housing rehabilitation, economic opportunity, neighborhood stabilization and revitalization, and general administration.

Please direct questions to Linda Rust at lrust@knoxvilletn.gov or by mail at P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901.

9. Council On Disability Issues Invites You to Join Conversation

The Mayor's Council On Disability Issues (CODI) invites you to join their conversation. May is Older Americans Month and CODI invites you to come join them. Whether you are a senior, veteran, an individual with a disability, family member of someone with a disability, business owner, or employer of individuals with disabilities--CODI is

committed to issues that affect everyone. They want to hear your voice and learn more about what is happening in the community surrounding disability-related topics.

All meetings are open to the public.

Their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12, at 4 p.m. To confirm the location of their meetings, please visit the [CODI website](#).

For more, contact Misha Byrne at mbyrne@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2423 or you can visit them on their [Facebook Page](#).

The Mayor's Council on Disability Issues (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.

10. Did You Know Knoxville Has a Bike Map?

If you want to get more into cycling, but aren't sure which route to take, [I Bike Knox](#) has the perfect resource for you!

The Knoxville Bike Map was designed to help residents and visitors find the best routes to shop, socialize, commute, and more. It shows bike lanes, climbing bike lanes, signed bike routes, comfortable routes (based on low-to-medium traffic speeds & volume), connections where you should use caution, local neighborhood streets that are generally safe for cycling, and more.

They also have maps that show bicycle facilities such as greenways, bike repair stands, bike shops, and bike racks, both in Knoxville and across the region. Additionally, they have specific routes mapped out between popular destinations in Knoxville, such as downtown, the Knoxville Zoo, Ijams Nature Center, and more.

11. Keep Knoxville Beautiful Offers Grant Money

[Keep Knoxville Beautiful](#) (KKB) seeks proposals once a year from community groups who are inspired to take on a community project that aligns with the organization's mission.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Tree planting
- Butterfly gardens
- Community gardens
- Murals
- Graffiti removal and repainting of wall
- Large scale litter pickups (100+ volunteers)
- Educational projects that promote beautification efforts and environmental stewardships

KKB initiated this yearly Request for Proposals to establish more and diversified community partnerships that seek to fulfill our mission.

Some ways in which KKB can help schools, neighborhood associations, churches, and other community groups to implement their projects are through:

- Volunteer support
- Funding (accepting projects with budgets up to \$5,000)
- Project development and implementation

The application deadline falls on Friday, June 4, at 5 p.m.. Notification of acceptance will be sent out on Wednesday, June 30, of the current calendar year, and all chosen projects will take place during the next fiscal year. Applications will only be reviewed in June.

To apply, please visit the KKB [website](#).

[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 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.*