

The Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 14, No. 21 – Tuesday, June 8, 2021

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2021-06-08>

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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. ONE Welcomes Hayley Howard

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) has hired a new Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator. Welcome, Hayley Howard!

She has hit the ground running since her official start date of June 1. She is not new to ONE as she was our intern for the last year. She was doing her field placement with us for the College of Social Work with the University of Tennessee, from which she graduated just a few weeks ago with her Master's Degree.

Hayley will be taking over the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP) and the Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP). If you have questions with either of these programs, feel free to reach out to her at hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov.

Also, feel free to reach out to her just to welcome her if you would like. We are excited to have her on our team.

2. Neighborhood Advisory Council Meets This Wednesday

The [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC) will meet this week on Wednesday, June 9, at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom.

For this month, NAC will be learning about what [Knox County Planning Alliance](#) does and how neighborhoods can involve the organization when rezoning signs pop up nearby or plans for a development in the neighborhood are listed in a meeting agenda.

All residents are invited to attend. Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/99168847526?pwd=T1dVbzJOMFpxZEU4NWx1dEF0VDIBdz09>
Passcode: 999999

The NAC members ask questions and make comments first. If time allows, questions or comments can be taken from 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.

3. Help Us Welcome ONE's New Interns!

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment has two new interns, Sarah Holsenback and Holly Van de Vate, whom you may get to meet soon in a neighborhood meeting, through email, or by phone.

Sarah is pursuing her Master's degree in Social Work with a concentration in Organizational Leadership through the University of Tennessee.

Holly is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Sustainability through the University of Tennessee.

We are excited to learn from them and watch them expand their knowledge of local government.

4. Is Your Neighborhood On The Map?

Did you know that the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment has its own map layer of neighborhood groups on KGIS? This can be a great tool for people to find out what neighborhood they live in and who to contact about getting involved!

However, in order for this to be an effective tool, we need your updated neighborhood boundaries.

You can check out the neighborhood map [here](#) to see if your neighborhood is currently on the map and if the boundaries are correct.

If your neighborhood boundaries need to be added or adjusted, you can email any updates to kcatron@knoxvilletn.gov or call 865-215-3232 with any questions.

5. City Continues to Host Kid A' Riffic Events Weekly Through June & July

The first Kid A' Riffic event in Suttree Landing Park was a huge success, but don't worry if you missed it—there are still eight more opportunities for fun!

If you have or know kids who are looking for an event with crafts, exercises, and various activities and programs, all inside a beautiful park, then be sure to come out for Kid A' Riffic Fun in the Park!

These events will happen from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. throughout June and July! The schedule is below:

- June 9 - Victor Ashe Park, 4901 Bradshaw Rd
- June 16 - World's Fair Park, World's Fair Park Drive
- June 23 - Lakeshore Park, 6410 Northshore Drive
- June 30 - Ashley Nicole Dream Playground, 620 Winona St
- July 7 - Holston River Park, 3300 Holston Hills Rd
- July 14 - Adair Park, 1807 Adair Dr
- July 21 - West Hills Park, 7624 Sheffield Dr
- July 28 - World's Fair Park, World's Fair Park Drive

Participation is free and no registration is required!

For more information, you can visit KnoxvilleTN.gov/events

You can also stay up to date on these events in the case of inclement weather on the [City of Knoxville Special Events Facebook Page](#).

Come out and have a Kid A' Riffic day in your local park!

6. KUB to Host Informational Meeting on Broadband Internet Plan

Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) will hold an informational meeting about its proposed fiber and broadband plan on Monday, June 14, at 6 p.m. at the Change Center Knoxville, 203 Harriet Tubman Street.

The meeting is intended to provide the public with an additional opportunity to receive information about KUB's plan to provide broadband internet services to customers in its electric service territory.

Residents interested in attending the meeting can register at www.kub.org/broadband. During the meeting, KUB will provide a presentation about the plan and answer questions about the potential customer impacts and benefits.

Residents are also invited to offer feedback about the plan by sending an email to BroadbandFeedback@kub.org or by calling 558-2200 and leaving a recorded voice message.

7. Cicadas Scream Their Way into Summer

As you probably have heard by now, cicadas are back in East Tennessee this summer season. Periodical cicadas are a type of shield bug that spend around 13 to 17 years as

larvae (nymphs) underground before emerging above the surface to become adults and reproduce.

You can protect young trees or shrubs in your yard by covering them with mesh until cicada season is over. Appropriate coverings are any mesh covers that have holes ~1cm or smaller, available at local gardening stores. Although cicadas can be harmful to adolescent trees, they are beneficial to adult trees, acting as natural pruners, which means there will be less yard work for you.

Additionally, cicadas help bring air into the soil while their carcasses also add beneficial nitrogen. Nitrogen is a key natural element and fertilizer that helps wildlife grow. Adult cicadas have a short lifespan—only a few weeks. However, their long adolescences can be shortened by a variety of predators including humans. Be wary about how many chemicals you are putting on your lawn because it can cut a cicada's life short and also harm pets.

Additionally, if you are brave enough, cicadas are edible! There are many recipes online and first-hand accounts on what they taste like. You can make them into just about anything, like popcorn cicadas, cicada cookies, dumplings, pastas, and more. Although these insects can be loud, the pros outweigh the cons.

For more information about cicadas, check out [the National Federation of Wildlife website](#).

8. Affordable Housing, What Is The Need?

The United States is facing a shortage of affordable rental housing.

- Only 7.3 million affordable rental homes exist for the nation's 10.9 million extremely low-income (ELI) renter households.
- Not all of the 7.3 million homes are available – approximately 3.3 million of these homes are occupied by higher-income households.
- Only 36 affordable and available rental homes exist for every 100 ELI renter households.
- Around 71% of of ELI renter households spend more than half of their income on housing, making them severely cost burdened.

The lowest-income households face enormous barriers in obtaining affordable and accessible housing. The increased stress from housing instability and lack of resources negatively affects low-income family members' mental and physical health.

Knoxville has lost hundreds of affordable units over the last few years, and, at the same time, market-rate rents have been steadily climbing.

The City has been taking sustained and consistent action to increase the availability of affordable housing, including the establishment of the Affordable Rental Development Fund (ARDF) in 2017 and the Affordable Housing Fund in 2021.

Since July 2017, the City has invested \$10.2 million in the creation of new affordable rental housing, leading to the completion of 547 units located in South, West, North and East Knoxville neighborhoods.

In an effort to increase the supply and long-term availability of rental housing options for persons with modest incomes, these funds have been created to bridge financing gaps that developers of quality affordable rental housing can face.

To see the 12 different projects that received assistance through the ARDF, visit the [City's website](#).

For more information about affordable housing, visit the [National Low Income Housing Coalition's website](#).

9. 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.*