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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. Fourth and Gill Plans Neighborhood Porch Hop

Fourth and Gill's Porch Hop event is back this year, providing neighbors several opportunities to connect.

Four different households will be offering up their front porches for neighbors to come enjoy signature cocktails and refreshments and mingle with each other! Each porch has a theme, including "Peachy Keen," "Hops and Vino beneath the Honeysuckle Tree," "Cheese It's Good to Meat You, Do You Wine Here Often?" and "Kegs, Kool-Aid, and Kids." Some houses will be selling Historic Fourth and Gill merchandise, including a special 2021 Neighborhood Pint Glass.

Consider hosting your own neighborhood porch hop to bring neighbors together, and if you already have a great community-building event planned, feel free to let us know by emailing Hayley Howard at hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov.

2. District Attorney's Office Holds Citizens Academy

The District Attorney's 2021 Citizens Academy is now accepting applications from people who would like to get a thorough, behind-the-scenes look at the criminal justice system.

Participants learn about the specific roles of law enforcement officers, attorneys, judges, and jurors, while being exposed to the inner-workings and complexities involved in

prosecution. Citizens can practice what they have learned by participating in a mock trial, arguing a criminal case as prosecutors. In addition to the mock trial, assistant district attorneys present on a wide range of topics including Criminal Justice 101, the “CSI Effect,” the opioid epidemic, gangs, human trafficking, and other trends impacting our community.

The Citizens Academy will be held on seven consecutive Tuesdays, Aug. 31 and through Oct. 12, from 6-8 p.m. Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years old, live or work in Knox County, and agree to a background check.

To apply, email your [application](#) to Emily Scheuneman at Emily.scheuneman@knoxcounty.org no later than Friday, July 30. You will find out by Friday, Aug. 6, if you have been accepted into the academy.

3. CAC Offers Assistance To Senior Victims

[Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee](#) (CAC) Office on Aging houses a program called Rise Above Crime that is free for people 50 and older residing in Knoxville or Knox County who are victims of physical, sexual or psychological violence; neglect; or economic exploitation and fraud.

Participants are paired with case managers to help work through their traumas. The case workers look at each case to determine what would be needed for each individual. According to CAC’s website, some of those options could be:

- If the person decides to take legal action, they will tell them about the criminal justice system, accompany them to their interview with the police, help them get legal representation, if necessary, guide them in completing any forms and assist them in obtaining an order of protection or restraining order.
- If safety is a concern, they will help them get the safety protection they need.
- If the person is entitled to benefits, they will help through the process.
- Help coordinate transportation to and from meetings.
- If the person does not speak English, they will get an interpreter for them.

If there is something that CAC cannot help with or provide, they will refer the person to someone who can help.

If interested, call 524-2786 and ask for the Rise Above Crime program.

4. Knox Housing Rental Assistance Program Provides Financial Assistance

The [Knox Housing Assistance Program](#) is a joint City of Knoxville/Knox County initiative aiding renters adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is open to income-qualified city and county renters where one or more individuals in the home have experienced one of the following adverse financial impacts due directly, or indirectly, to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income
- Incurred significant costs
- Experienced other financial hardship

For rental assistance, applications are required by both the tenant and the landlord. Once both applications are received, they will be matched within the system. A case manager will follow-up if additional information is required.

Utility assistance is also available through the program. Applications for utility assistance only do not require a landlord application. As a tenant, you may apply for rent and utility assistance within the same application or you may apply for either type of assistance individually. As a landlord, you may apply for multiple tenants through a single application.

Applications will be accepted until all funds have been reserved. Households at or below 50 percent of the adjusted median income for Knox County, or those where one or more household members have been unemployed for the 90 days prior to the date of their application, will receive priority funding.

The easiest way to determine your eligibility for the Knox Housing Assistance Program is by clicking the [application link](#) and answering the seven questions asked in the Eligibility Questionnaire.

5. BBB Cancelled, POH Meets This Week

The Better Building Board will not meet this month, as there is no business before the board.

The Public Officer Hearing will be held on Friday, June 25, in the Small Assembly Room, 400 Main St. and via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. You can access the meeting via [Zoom](#). Passcode: 803188

Speakers must register in advance with Cheri Burke at 215-2867 or cmburke@knoxvilletn.gov.

The new items on the agenda are: 708 E. Depot Ave.; 112 Greenbrier Dr.; 1406 McCalla Ave.; 426 E. Oak Hill Ave.; 119 Pruett Place; 1620 Robert Huff Ln.; 4220 Skyline Dr.; 101 Warren Ave.; 103 Warren Ave.; and 118 Westwood Rd.

6. Support Small Businesses by Shopping Local

Shopping local is a great way to engage in sustainability practices that help reduce CO2 emissions, urban sprawl, and create a bigger sense of togetherness.

Small businesses require less infrastructure. This is important because it can leave space and money to upgrade the surrounding area, which can add value to the community and its surrounding properties.

According to SustainableConnections.org, "Small businesses donate almost 2.5 times more per employee to local charitable causes than large, national competitors." Supporting small businesses can mean helping your neighbor and increasing donations to local causes.

Small businesses provide a vast majority of the new jobs in the U.S. Each local shop tends to be unique from one another. Plus, each store buys items based on what their

customers want, not based on national trends. You get better customer service, and making these personal connections to small business owners could be key to their store's success. You can help keep them in business! When you spend money at a local shop, it is more likely to stay within the local economy.

These components lead to a better, more diverse and more inclusive community. Per Sustainable Connections, "Local businesses mean a stronger tax base and better use of public services compared to nationally owned stores. This translates into better schools, transportation, and emergency response services for you and your family." This is a huge win for everyone!

There are several ways to shop small and support local businesses. To start, take some time to learn about Knoxville's local businesses. Support them by following their social media accounts and interacting with their posts! This is a free way to bring more traffic into their stores and help provide them with more exposure.

Farmers and crafters are also small businesses! Buying locally grown produce and locally made items keeps more money in our local economy and provides personal connections between the grower, maker and buyer.

To take it one step further, chose a local bank for your finances and local services when you need something fixed. If possible, walk, bike or use public transportation to minimize your carbon footprint. Knoxville is home to a diverse range of local shops. Whether you need a good cup of coffee or new work attire, there is a shop here for everyone.

This series of articles is being written for ONE's newsletter in order to continue with the City's re-certification for the [Certified Wildlife Habitat](#) with the National Wildlife Federation.

7. Muse Knoxville Hosts Muse Pop

Are you ready to get out and explore this summer? Visit [Muse Knoxville](#) to check out [Muse Pop](#), a new pop-up museum experience outside.

Muse Pop is a brand-new outdoor museum experience capturing the power of play. The pop-up museum experience will feature engaging exhibits, informative workshops, exhilarating performances, and more within a world of colorful tents. Kids of all ages will enjoy open-air activities using new and existing exhibit elements. This event will also include weekly rotating hands-on experiences, workshops, and summer camps.

If interested, you may sign up your child for Muse Pop's play days on their [website](#).

Muse Knoxville is a children's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math museum located in Chilhowee Park, 516 N. Beaman St. Their programs in the museum, in schools across East Tennessee, and throughout Knoxville bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), the arts, health & wellness, and emergent literacy to life in children's minds. Muse inspires & empowers all children through transformative learning experiences through various hands-on and inquiry-based exhibits and outreach programs for children aged six months to 10 years old.

8. 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.*