



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 14, No. 26 – Tuesday, July 20, 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.

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1. City Celebrates Urban Wilderness Grand Opening

City officials, project partners and neighbors will gather to celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of the \$10 million [Urban Wilderness Gateway Park](#), which includes the Baker Creek Bike Park, wayfinding signage, dedicated parking and more.

During Phase 1, the park's infrastructure was built, including neighborhood connections, roads and greenways, lighting and utility installation. The most visible part of Phase 1 is the Baker Creek Bike Park, which was dedicated in August 2020.

Phase 2, beginning in Fall/Winter 2021, will see construction of the adventure playground at Baker Creek Preserve, restroom facilities, shade structures and picnic areas, as well as new play features and gathering spaces.

All are welcome to join in and see the new park, greenway, and bike apparatuses.

RSVP to the event and share on [Facebook](#).

2. Local League of Women Voters Hosts Candidate Forum

[The League of Women Voters of Knoxville-Knox County](#) along with its partner organizations will host a forum for the Knoxville City Council primary candidates on Thursday, July 29, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the YWCA Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, 124 South Cruze Street.

The primary election is Tuesday, Aug. 31, and registered voters will be voting for their top representative in City Council districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. In the primaries, each resident will vote for the candidate in their district only. In the general election, held in November, the top two winning candidates from each district will go on to run in the citywide General Election. Candidates for 5th District and At-Large seats A, B, and C will run in 2023.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

Visit [GoVoteKnoxville.com](#) for a list of candidates and links to their online information, as well as a list of public candidate forums.

3. Healthy West Hills Organizes Fun Community Event

The West Hills Neighborhood has organized a fun community event to bring neighbors together and meet the requirements of Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's (ONE) pilot wellness program!

Throughout the year, they are hosting outdoor events in a neighbor's yard with healthy food options including food trucks on the Fifth Friday of the month, which occurs in July and October. These events promote healthy eating, while also creating a sense of community that can be crucial for mental wellness!

If your neighborhood group is interested in hosting a Fifth Friday event and need advice, or if you would like more information about our pilot neighborhood wellness program, you can reach out to the ONE office at neighborhoods@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3232.

In January 2021, ONE began the pilot wellness program based on the State wellness program called Healthier Tennessee, which closed in 2019. ONE's program currently does not have a name. If you have suggestions, you can email neighborhoods@knoxvilletn.gov.

If you live in the West Hills neighborhood, be sure to check out their next Fifth Friday event!

4. National Night Out Is Around the Corner

The national date to celebrate [National Night Out](#) (NNO) is Tuesday, Aug. 3. If your neighborhood is planning an event for that night, please contact Officer Morgan at jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov. They will be happy to have officers there for your celebration.

The City of Knoxville traditionally celebrates NNO on the alternate date in October, which is Tuesday, Oct. 5; however, this date fell on a City Council night. In order to have your Mayor and City Council members at your festivities, the date was moved to Tuesday, Oct. 12.

NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes partnerships between communities and police officers and neighbors to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live, with a focus on neighbors working together with law enforcement on public safety.

It is time to start planning. We are excited to see how many neighborhoods participate in 2021.

5. Statewide League of Women Voters Presents Redistricting Webinar

The [League of Women Voters of Tennessee](#) will be hosting a webinar titled [Communities of Interest: Building Blocks for Redistricting](#), on Thursday, July 22, at 12 p.m.

The session is open to the public and may be accessed via [Zoom](#):

Yurij Rudensky, redistricting counsel at the Brennan Center's Democracy Program, will provide an overview. His primary areas of focus at the Brennan Center are redistricting policy reform, race and redistricting jurisprudence, and bridging the scientific-legal gap.

As the League of Women Voters works to bring community voices to the redistricting process, Mr. Rudensky's insights will help folks think through how communities of interest can be defined in ways to draw political boundaries that lead to fair representation.

6. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets Today

The City of Knoxville's Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Tuesday, June 20, at 4 p.m. in Room 461, City County Building, 400 Main St. They will consider petitions for variances of requirements of the Knoxville City Code.

Please contact Cheri Burke at 865-215-2867 or cmurke@knoxvilletn.gov with questions about attending or for alternate attendance options.

If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability, please contact the City ADA coordinator at 215-2034.

6. How Can You Make Your Travel More Sustainable?

Traveling is delightful to so many people, yet it can add emissions, trash, and negative consequences for our environment.

More and more people are beginning to travel again, which means more vehicle emissions are being added back into the environment. How can we reduce emissions when traveling? There are easy changes folks can incorporate to help make a difference.

One easy way to reduce your carbon footprint while traveling is by carpooling. By taking one car instead of two, you are cutting emissions in half. You may also decide to share transportation with others, like riding a bus or an airplane. If you choose to ride a plane, reducing your flights is a huge way to produce less CO2 emissions per capita. When planning your trip, you may want to try for an itinerary that has a direct flight rather than one with several layovers.

Even if you are committed to recycling and reducing waste at home, doing so while traveling can be difficult. One way to combat waste is to make and pack your own snacks. When you do this, you will have less trash to throw away. Individually packaged snacks from the store and to-go containers from restaurants contain a lot of excess trash that you are able to eliminate by packing your own.

If you have something that needs to go in a plastic bag, you may want to opt for a reusable snack bag or a beeswax wrap instead. You can find these at most retailers. This way you are cutting down on how much trash you produce as well as saving money.

Other ideas include bringing your own reusable water bottle, using a multipurpose bag, and shopping local (this includes food!) once you reach your destination.

By reducing carbon emissions and trash, we are able to make a dent and slow down the negative effects on the environment.

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.

[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 scCook@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.*