



**The Neighborly Notice** – Vol. 14, No. 33 – Tuesday, September 14, 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. Resources Available for Renters and Landlords**

If you are a renter having trouble paying your rent, utilities, or other housing costs – or if you're a landlord trying to stay afloat with tenants in this situation – help may be available. State and local programs are distributing billions of dollars in rental assistance to help renters stay housed during the pandemic.

Visit the [Knox Housing Assistance Program](#) to find out if you qualify and to apply. For more information on national programs, visit the [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Rental Assistance Finder](#).

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's site also includes resources to help renters and landlords understand other resources to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.

## **2. Knox County Planning Alliance Offers Second Workshop**

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) is collaborating with Knox County Planning Alliance (KCPA) to host a virtual workshop series on citizen advocacy and engagement in the local land-use and planning processes.

The next workshop, which is the second in the series, is Thursday, Sept. 23, 6-8 p.m. and will show the Knoxville-Knox County land-use maps and planning process from a resident perspective. Attendees can learn how to conduct research using existing tools and resources, where to focus your time and attention, and who to connect with in Knoxville-Knox County Planning (formerly known as the Metropolitan Planning Commission). KCPA will walk you through the process, from the receipt of public notification or knowledge of a land use application request, through attending City Council meetings.

Join this [Zoom link](#).  
Meeting ID: 891 6362 1406  
Passcode: 803090

In the last workshop in the series (Thursday, Oct. 21, 6-8 p.m.), KCPA will share how to quickly organize your efforts and your neighbors, identify the facts, choose your speakers, how and to whom to communicate your message, and how to establish positive, long-lasting community relationships. They will provide tools and resources that will help you ask the right questions, and why the approach is just as important as the message.

The first workshop introduced KCPA, their mission, and the volunteer work conducted by the group. KCPA is an association of citizens and organizations who advocate for intentional and anticipated growth with coordinated infrastructure through long-term comprehensive planning, conservation concepts, and responsible land-use and development processes. The discussion will center around why connecting neighbors and advocacy is important, how you can learn more about land-use and planning basics, and how to organize or get involved with your neighborhood group.

All are welcome to join. If you have questions, contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382.

## **3. Register to Vote Before the City General Election**

The City General Election will be here before we know it. Registered voters in Knoxville city limits will determine the winners of City Council seats in Districts 1-4 and 6.

Are you registered to vote? Do you know how to find out if your name and address are current on the voter rolls? To retrieve your voter registration information, go to the [Tennessee Secretary of State's website](#) and enter your information.

Enter the county in which you live, your first and last name, and the year you were born. Enter the last four digits of your social security number. Then, all your voter registration information will appear. If any of your information is incorrect, there is a button to click to update your registration.

Below are important dates for the 2021 City General Election:

First day of Early Voting period – Wednesday, Oct. 13  
Final day to request an absentee ballot – Tuesday, Oct. 26  
Final day of Early Voting period – Thursday, Oct. 28  
Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 2

For more information on the upcoming elections, visit the [Knox County Election Commission's website](#).

Visit the City's [Go Vote! Knoxville](#) site for important information on City elections and to read some of our history.

If you want to be sure your voice is counted, you must vote.

#### **4. Active Shooter Training Offered to Community Members**

Tennessee District 2 Homeland Security is hosting an Active Shooter Training for community and faith-based organizations on Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Jubilee Banquet Hall, 6700 Jubilee Center Way, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This course is offered to all community members. Please [register](#) in advance. It is provided through State Homeland Security grant funds, so there is no cost to attend.

This training will provide organizations with unique tools to better understand active shooter incidents. This course will begin with a seminar to provide students with information about active shooter preparation, potential behavior an active shooter may exhibit, and discuss the need to create an Active Shooter Action Plan.

After the seminar, students will participate in a six-hour interactive workshop that better prepares their organization to protect, prevent, respond to, and recover from an active shooter incident. Some key areas that will be discussed include:

1. Developing a workplace safety culture;
2. Outlining responsibilities for preventing and protecting both facilities and individuals;
3. Creating a framework enhance policies, procedures, and action plans;
4. Training staff on how to create and execute a workplace safety training program.

The instructor for this training is retired FBI Agent and A&A Investigations & Consulting Group owner Ricky Hill. Over his 30-year career, Mr. Hill served as a trained crisis manager, investigator, and expert in security operations and risk-based assessments. He has trained domestic and international audiences on topics such as counterterrorism, risk management, and physical security issues.

If you have any questions regarding the course, please contact Kate Rafferty at [Kate.Rafferty@knoxcounty.org](mailto:Kate.Rafferty@knoxcounty.org).

### **5. City Council Hosts Redistricting Workshop**

The Knoxville City Council will host a workshop on Thursday, Sept. 16, at 5 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building.

This will be City Council's first workshop on redistricting in this cycle based on the numbers from the 2020 Census data.

You may attend in person or you may tune in to Community Television of Knoxville ([CTVKnox.org](http://CTVKnox.org)) to watch from home; check your cable provider's channel listings.

### **6. September Is National Preparedness Month**

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is observed each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The 2021 theme is "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love."

Creating a plan to prepare for an emergency or natural disaster can feel overwhelming. One easy place to start is by focusing on location; you can develop a plan for what to do in the event of an emergency or natural disaster from your home, workplace, or frequented destination in the community.

You may want to consider what alarm systems are in place, where the exits are located, or what supplies you may need.

For more helpful tips, visit the [Ready.gov website](https://www.ready.gov). You can learn about different types of disasters that may occur, how to make a plan, what to do to get involved, and much more.

Being prepared can save lives.

## **7. National Night Out Is One Month Away**

National Night Out (NNO) is one month away! Due to the high level of the COVID-19 virus in our community, City officials encourage neighborhood groups that want to participate to host outdoor events. If that is not possible, your group could host indoor events with attendees physical distancing and wearing masks.

If your neighborhood is not comfortable doing an event, there are other ways to show your support:

- Decorate in Blue
- Leave Your Lights On
- Send Thank You cards

Decorate in Blue – Decorate your mailboxes, yards, houses, etc., with signs supporting the police, sidewalk chalk, or any other creative ideas. Be sure to include the major streets your neighborhood would like to highlight in your registration for Police Officers, Fire Fighters, First Responders, and City Council, to drive through and see your support.

Leave Your Lights On – This traditional way to show support for the police is a classic NNO option. If your neighborhood chooses to leave the lights on, officers will do their best to drive through and see your demonstration of support.

Send Thank You Cards – Simply sending a thank you card to KPD, a specific officer, an officer liaison, and/or the Chief, is another way to show support. Send mail to: KPD, National Night Out, 400 Main St., Knoxville, TN 37901.

If your neighborhood group plans to have an event or show support by decorating/leaving the lights on, please register with KPD's Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Officer John Morgan at [jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov) along with Neighborhood Coordinator Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) by Friday, Oct. 8, including the following information:

- Neighborhood Name
- Contact Name
- Contact Email
- Contact Phone #
- What activities your neighborhood plans to do
- Location
- Start and End Time
- Do you want a Drive Through by Police and/or Fire?

NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more

caring places to live. NNO provides an opportunity to enhance relationships between neighbors and law enforcement. NNO provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive, non-emergency circumstances. It is also a great opportunity to recognize all first responders in the area for all the work they do for the community.

If you would like to also [register](#) with the national NNO organization, visit the National Night Out website.

All neighborhoods are encouraged to participate in one way or another!

### **[8. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#)** (click link for online calendar)

Call 215-3232 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

The City of Knoxville ensures meaningful access to City programs, services, and activities to comply with Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II laws and reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids and services.

To request language translation services, contact Diversity and Inclusion Officer Tatia M. Harris at [tharris@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:tharris@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2831. For disability accommodations, contact City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Brewer Cook at [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-2034 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

### **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.*