



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 14, No. 34 – Tuesday, September 21, 2021

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Newsletter (PDF version): <https://bit.ly/NeighborlyNotice-2021-09-21>

1. Public Input Sought on Proposed Washington Pike Improvements
2. Neighborhood Hosts Yoga in the Park
3. Knox County Planning Alliance Offers Second Workshop
4. Cheer on Your Neighbors at Annual Wiffleball Tournament
5. Who Are the Candidates for City Council?
6. League of Women Voters Hosts Candidate Forum
7. Sports Authority to Meet Next Week
8. Serve Your Community by Volunteering on a Board
9. [Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#)

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. Public Input Sought on Proposed Washington Pike Improvements

The City of Knoxville is hosting a public meeting about the proposed Washington Pike improvements on Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 6 p.m. at New Harvest Park Community Room.

This meeting will be an open house style. You can come at any time between 6-7 p.m. to ask questions of City and design staff familiar with the project.

Masks are required for City meetings.

The project, estimated at \$17 million, is planned to improve traffic flow and safety along the Washington Pike corridor inside the northeastern city limits, between I-640 and Murphy Road. The proposed design also provides bicycle and pedestrian paths.

There have been several meetings with neighbors who will be directly affected by these proposed upgrades. The designs being proposed in this meeting reflect the input of these neighbors and is open to the wider community to get further input.

Washington Pike would remain five lanes on the western end of the project area, where Greenway Drive ties in near the Target store. The pike would narrow to three lanes by New Harvest Lane, then expand back to five lanes, including a turn lane, at Steeple Shadow Way and Babelay Road and continue on in that configuration to the City limits at Murphy Road. There, turn lanes would carry traffic onto Murphy or Pullman roads, and Washington Pike to the east would continue in its current two lanes.

Along the project corridor, two 10-foot, multi-use pedestrian and bicycle paths would be built, and they would connect to existing parks and greenways.

The most accident-prone intersection, at Washington Pike and Lifespring Lane, would be reconstructed to improve safety.

Once the plan is finalized and right-of-way is acquired, work is expected to begin in early 2024. The City's goal is to have the project completed by the end of 2026 or mid-2027.

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 or 215-2831. For disability accommodations, contact City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Brewer Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

2. Neighborhood Hosts Yoga in the Park

Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association will be hosting a donation-based yoga series in Edgewood Park at 10 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Their next class is set for Oct. 2 and is open to anyone who wants to join! Participants should bring a yoga mat, water, and towel.

A suggested donation of \$5 is appreciated and payable via Venmo or cash.

This initiative started in partnership with Knox County Health Department and the City of Knoxville's Parks & Recreation Department.

For more information, visit their [Facebook Page](#).

3. 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 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 or 215-4382.

4. Cheer on Your Neighbors at Annual Wiffleball Tournament

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) is excited to help organize this year's Annual Neighborhood Wiffleball Tournament. This event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at Caswell Park.

This year's teams include:

- Forest Heights Neighborhood
- Lonsdale Neighborhood Association
- Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association
- Parkridge Community Organization
- West Hills Community Association
- Westwood Homeowners Association

We cannot wait to see you on the field for some friendly neighborhood competition or to cheer on your favorite neighborhood!

5. Who Are the Candidates for City Council?

City voters will elect five members to the nine-member Knoxville City Council in November. Candidates are running for seats in District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, and District 6.

Candidates for City Council are:

1st District:

Tommy Smith (incumbent) - <https://tommyforknoxville.com/>

Elizabeth Murphy - <http://elizabethforknoxville.com/>

2nd District:

Andrew Roberto (incumbent) - <https://andrewjroberto.com/>

Kim Smith - <https://www.electkimsmith.com>

3rd District:

Seema Singh (incumbent) - <https://www.voteforseema.com/>

Nick Ciparro - <https://www.nickforknoxville.com/>

4th District:

Lauren Rider (incumbent) - <https://www.votelaurenrider.com/>

Jim Klonaris - <https://electjimklonaris.com/>

6th District:

Gwen McKenzie (incumbent) – <https://votegwenmckenzie.com>

Garrett Holt - <https://www.electgarretholt.com/>

Early voting begins Oct. 13, and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2. The final day to register to vote is Monday, Oct. 4.

Find this information and more at [GoVoteKnoxville.com](https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/), and learn more about the General Election, districts, voting precincts and early voting locations at <https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/>.

Your vote matters!

6. League of Women Voters Hosts Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County will host a forum for the candidates in the Knoxville City Council General Election on Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

[Registration](#) is required if you would like to participate.

This webinar will be recorded if you are unable to attend.

This is an excellent way to learn about the candidates running for City Council in order to make an informed decision.

7. Sports Authority to Meet Next Week

The fifth formal meeting of the Sports Authority will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the City of Knoxville Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Ave.

If you would like to learn more about what the newly appointed Sports Authority will be doing and how it will function, you may want to attend this meet. They will be considering a proposed City- and County-owned multi-use stadium project east of the Old City. If the plan is authorized by the City and County, it would be financed, built, and managed by the Sports Authority.

The total economic impact of the stadium and surrounding private development is projected to be nearly \$480 million over 30 years. The estimated cost to the City and County would be \$240,000 for each government annually for the first 10 years; in comparison, that is slightly more than the City pays for its annual cell phone contract, or for one of the City or County mowing contracts for public properties.

The total cost of the stadium, including land value and depending on amenities and design specifics, is estimated between \$75 million and \$90.5 million. Developer Randy Boyd would be donating \$10 million to \$16 million in private funds toward the total cost in the form of a donation, and the state of Tennessee has provided a \$13.5 million economic development grant.

The goal is for new money generated by the project – such as sales taxes on concessions and new revenue from surrounding private property development – to pay off the construction bonds. No property taxes will be used to pay for the stadium.

The proposal calls for the stadium to be leased to Boyd Sports for use by the Tennessee Smokies AA Southern League baseball team for roughly \$1 million a year, but the stadium would host hundreds of other non-baseball events each year, such as soccer matches, concerts, festivals, etc. As part of a larger redevelopment effort around the stadium, GEM Community Development Group, the private partner to Boyd Sports, is committed to investing more than \$100 million to build apartments, condominiums, restaurants, offices, and space for a potential grocery in East Knoxville.

If the City and County authorize the Sports Authority to finalize agreements and initiate construction financing, a ground-breaking would happen in early 2022 and the stadium would be anticipated to open in late 2023, with plans for Southern League professional baseball to be played here in spring 2024.

Sports Authority board meetings are scheduled through the end of 2021 on these dates: Oct. 26, Nov. 23 and Dec. 28.

For more information about the proposed project, visit www.visitknoxville.com/knox-sports-authority/ or www.knoxvilletn.gov/stadium.

8. Serve Your Community by Volunteering on a Board

The City of Knoxville values community input and engagement. There are dozens of Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils where Knoxville residents contribute to the governance of our city. Some Boards are established in the City Charter; others are set up by the Mayor or City Council to perform special, limited functions.

The Board of Environmental Appeals is looking for an individual who has knowledge of development and erosion controls and is available to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. Do you think you or someone you know would be a good fit? The City of Knoxville would love to hear from you.

Are you interested in serving on a different board or commission? You can [view a full list of Boards and Commissions here](#).

If you are interested in being appointed [to serve on a particular Board you can apply online](#) or email Jennifer Searle at jsearle@knoxvilletn.gov. Include a detailed description of how you can contribute to the board you are interested in joining. Be sure to include any special interests and/or qualifications you currently have.

9. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar (click link for online calendar)

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

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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.*