



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 15, No. 3 – Tuesday, January 25, 2022

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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. Deadline Extended for Neighbor of the Year Nominations

Nominations for the Neighbor of the Year will now be accepted through Friday, Jan. 28, 2022.

Be thinking... Do you know someone who goes the extra mile to make their neighborhood a better place? Perhaps they welcome new neighbors, volunteer to help neighbors in distress or work tirelessly in service to the entire neighborhood and/or neighborhood organization. Or maybe they make everyone feel included.

The Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award is presented annually to a Knoxville resident who has devoted time and talent in service to their neighbors and neighborhood. The award is meant to honor someone who makes a positive contribution at the neighborhood level without seeking recognition for their service.

All nominees will be recognized at The Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at the Knoxville Convention Center. Nomination forms can be found on the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's [website](#).

For more information, contact Courtney Durrett at cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-3456.

2. KCDC Provided Look at Transforming Western Plan

On Jan. 19, Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) hosted an open house for the neighborhood, stakeholders, and community members to review the Transforming Western plan for the Western Heights housing site and Beaumont area.

The Transforming Western planning process began in February 2021 with insight from Western Heights residents followed by meetings with 17 stakeholder groups to identify and prioritize aspects of the renovation and replacement of neighborhood housing as well as needs like employment opportunities, transportation, safety, improved access to health care and technology, specifically internet access.

The process will culminate in KCDC applying in February for a \$40 million HUD Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to help fund the transformation of the neighborhood.

HUD's Choice Neighborhoods program is designed to leverage significant public and private funds to support implementation of locally driven strategies to improve public housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Additional philanthropic investment required by the grant and provided by individuals, companies and foundations would be used for site amenities such as parks, green spaces, community spaces and social services.

KCDC's Transforming Western planning partners include the City of Knoxville, Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC), Barber McMurry Architects, and Urban Design Associates.

The City of Knoxville is invested in the project and plans to contribute a significant amount of local dollars, federal CDBG funds, as well as maintenance of the proposed new City park. Future funding commitments will be based on City budgets being approved by City Council.

For more information on the Transforming Western plan, following the link on KCDC's [website](#).

3. ONE Updates Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program Guide And Application

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) has been working closely with the administration and Traffic Engineering to review and update the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP) guide and application to make the process clearer and easier for neighbors to navigate.

Since the pilot program began in September 2017, 16 (almost 17) applicants have received traffic-calming measures to slow speeders in their communities. The program has continued to grow in popularity, and ONE looks forward to helping many more neighborhoods make their communities safer through traffic calming.

To check out the new NTSP application and guide, please visit our [website](#).

If you have any questions about the NTSP process, please email Hayley Howard at hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov.

4. Neighborhood Achievement Award Nominations Are Now Open

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) is now accepting nominations for Neighborhood Achievement Awards. Neighborhoods are encouraged to nominate themselves.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive recognition for the work your neighbors have done throughout 2021. Applications for the Neighborhood Achievement Award are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 18.

What creative, interesting, resourceful, clever projects has your neighborhood organizations done over the past year?

Whether your organization is large or small, well established or brand new, your group is encouraged to apply for these awards, which showcase accomplishments by neighborhood groups during the 2021 calendar year. Winners receive \$75 for their Neighborhood Organization to use on future initiatives.

To apply, fill in the [nomination form](#) and email it to Courtney Durrett at cdurrett@knoxvillekn.gov OR mail it to Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN, 37901, no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18.

If you have questions or need a hard copy of the nomination form mailed to you, contact Courtney at 865-215-3456 or the above email.

Examples of accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

- Beautification and placemaking projects, green spaces and community gardens, and other physical improvements to the neighborhood;
- Projects, events, and activities that focus on connecting neighbors with one another, such as street fairs, potlucks, home tours, holiday celebrations, and neighbors helping neighbors;
- New or ongoing communication efforts such as newsletters, social media, and phone tree networks; and
- Activities involved in launching, reviving, or strengthening a neighborhood group.

We are excited to see what creative things you have done in 2021!

5. Neighborhood Safety Series Begins in East Knoxville

The Neighborhood Safety & Awareness Series has been revamped and rejuvenated.

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE), Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC), the Community Safety Department, and Knoxville Police Department (KPD) are partnering up for a series of four neighborhood safety workshops. The first one will be held in East Knoxville on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 6-8 p.m., at the Logan Temple AME Zion Church, 2744 Selma Ave, in the Sanctuary and Annex. A representative from East Tennessee Valley Crime Stoppers will also attend to explain how their program works.

Neighbors will learn more about ONE, PARC, the Mayor's new Department of Community Safety, KPD, and crime happening in their part of town. Presenters will share best practices for community safety, crime prevention and safety awareness. If you have questions you'd like to be answered at upcoming meetings, please send them to neighborhoods@knoxvillekn.gov.

East Knoxville neighbors are encouraged to attend. Future meetings will be held quarterly in North, South and West Knoxville neighborhoods.

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 865-215-2034 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

6. Planning Announces Annual One Year Plan Meeting

Knoxville Knox County Planning will hold their annual One Year Plan meeting on Thursday, Jan. 27, 5 p.m. via Zoom. This meeting will be for all sectors of the city.

The One Year Plan serves as the foundation for zoning decisions and is based on the land-use goals, objectives, and policies found in the City's long-range plans.

The public is encouraged to participate.

The Zoom meeting will begin with a presentation covering all geographic areas of the city, followed by an open discussion. The presentation will include a general definition describing the One Year Plan and an overview of the edits to the document since the 2021 update.

For more information about the One Year Plan, including a link to participate in the Zoom meeting, please visit [planning's website](#). If you have additional questions, contact Michelle Portier at michelle.portier@knoxplanning.org or 865-215-3821.

7. BBB and POH Meet This Week

The [Better Building Board](#) (BBB) meets on Thursday, Jan. 27, at 3:30 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street, and online via Zoom.

The BBB will review an appeal of the Public Officer Order for 4717 Santala Dr., including the accessory structure. Visit the website for the [agenda](#) and the Zoom link.

Anyone wishing to speak in person or via Zoom, should contact Cheri Burke in advance at cmburke@knoxvilletn.gov.

The BBB hears appeals of the Public Officer's orders. The BBB holds hearings and may affirm or alter the Public Officer's order. If the property owner does not comply with the BBB's order, the City may repair or demolish, alter, improve, secure, board, or vacate and close the structure and bill the owner for the service. A lien can also be placed against the property to recover expenses for repair or demolition. The property owner may appeal the BBB's order to the Knox County Chancery Court. The BBB may also hear cases regarding the city's acquisition of property or the enforcement of the Demolition by Neglect Ordinance.

After the Neighborhood Codes Enforcement office issues complaints to property owners regarding structures that are alleged to be unfit or dangerous, the Public Officer holds hearings and issues orders to property owners to make repairs or to demolish unfit structures. If the property owner does not comply with the order, the city may repair or demolish the structure and bill the owner for the service. A lien can also be placed against the property to recover expenses for repair or demolition. The Public Officer may also order an owner to alter, improve, secure, board, or vacate and close a structure. The property owner may appeal the Public Officer's order to the BBB within ten days of receipt of the order.

The Public Officer Hearing (POH) will be held on Friday, Jan. 28, at 9:30 a.m., in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street, and online via Zoom.

During the Public Officer Hearing, they will be addressing 4216 Acuff St., 1611 North Central St., 2721 E. Magnolia Ave., 2523 Riverside Dr. (rescheduled from Dec. 3, 2021 meeting), 5746 Sandis Ln., 205 Spruce St., 505 Twenty Second St., and 517 Victory St. including accessory structures. Visit the website to view the [POH agenda](#) and get the Zoom link.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, you or someone from your neighborhood organization may wish to speak on the current situation.

Anyone wishing to speak in person or via Zoom, should contact Cheri Burke in advance at cmburke@knoxvilletn.gov.

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8. Task Force Announces First Quarter Meetings

The African American Equity Restoration Task Force announces their first quarter meetings:

- Friday, Jan. 28, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Beck Cultural Exchange Center, 1927 Dandridge Ave.

- Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
City County Building, 400 Main St., Small Assembly Room
- Friday, March 25, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Beck Cultural Exchange Center, 1927 Dandridge Ave.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Community Television of Knoxville will record the meetings live and posts the video on its website (ctvknox.org) for on-demand viewing.

Information about the African American Equity Restoration Task Force, including meeting agendas and minutes and links to video of past meetings, is posted on the [City's website](#).

The task force was established in December 2020 to study, review and identify strategic solutions to improve areas of disparity and disenfranchisement in the Black community, work with existing agencies in the community, and develop policy, programs and recommendations that will establish opportunities for the Black community to build generational wealth.

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9. PARC Meets Next Week

The [Police Advisory Review Committee](#) (PARC) meets on Monday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m. at the Small Assembly Room in the City County Building, 400 Main Street.

The committee will be reviewing all cases that came before them from Oct. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021.

To request to speak during the public forum portion of a PARC meeting, contact Marcus Rudolph at mrudolph@knoxvilletn.gov before 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 28.

The purpose of PARC is to strengthen the relationship between the members of the Knoxville Police Department and the neighbors they serve through an independent review of police actions.

PARC reviews incidents involving police action following the conclusion of the Internal Affairs investigations. Neighbors can either register formal or anonymous complaints with PARC Executive Director Tiffany Davidson, tdavidson@knoxvilletn.gov.

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10. Housing and Neighborhood Development Plan Public Input Meeting

The City of Knoxville Housing and Neighborhood Development Department seeks input on the Year Three Annual Action Plan Update for the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan. A public meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m., via [Zoom](#) to discuss and hear input for the 2022-2023 plan.

The Five Year Consolidated plan prescribes the planned local use for three types of federal funds allocated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Act, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The Annual Action Plan Update accommodates for changes in community conditions and needs, funding resources, etc. that impact how federal funds should be allocated for the 2022-2023 program year, starting July 1, 2022.

At the meeting, City staff will:

- Discuss anticipated HUD and local funding for the 2022-2023 program year;
- Review priority goals and objectives from its 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan;
- Provide a description of unmet needs and gaps identified through consultation meetings with stakeholders, regarding: Non-housing Community Development needs (including economic development, neighborhood stabilization, public services, public facility and infrastructure improvements); Homelessness needs; and Affordable Housing needs;
- Describe the process for developing the draft 2022-2023 Annual Action Plan, including how the public may provide input; and
- Inform agencies on how they may apply for grant funding to meet priority goals and objectives.

The Housing and Neighborhood Development Department would like to encourage your participation and hear your input.

Additional information is posted on the Department's webpage at www.knoxvilletn.gov/development.

If you cannot make the meeting and would like to give input or have questions, please contact Linda Rust at lrust@knoxvilletn.gov or P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901.

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11. Volunteer Assisted Transportation Seeks Volunteer Drivers

Volunteer Assisted Transportation (VAT) is seeking volunteer drivers, and they are looking to hire two part-time drivers to drive Knox County seniors and people with disabilities to medical appointments, essential errands, and other activities of daily life.

There are perks of volunteering for this program of the Community Action Committee's Office on Aging:

- VAT provides free training.
- VAT provides the vehicle to drive.
- You are able to tailor your schedule to fit your availability for service.

Call VAT staff at 865-673-5001 and learn how to get started assisting Knox County residents. You must have an F endorsement on your license and follow COVID-19 precautions.

12. KKB Now Accepting Orchid Award Nominations

[Keep Knoxville Beautiful](#) (KKB) would like to remind folks that the deadline to send nominations for the 2022 Orchids Awards is Monday, Jan. 31.

What makes Knoxville beautiful and special? What projects are you proud of?

They are looking for submissions for the following categories:

- New Architecture
- Redesign/Reuse

- Outdoor Space (Parks, Patios, Rooftop Areas, Public Gardens, etc.)
- Community Space (Neighborhoods, Schools, Senior Living Facilities, Apartment Complexes, etc.)
- Public Art (Murals, Sculptures, Signage, etc.)
- ReGreen (Enhanced landscapes such as streetscapes, Asphalt-reduction, Treescapes, Waterscapes, etc.)

Go to [KKB's website](#) to submit a nomination.

The Orchids Awards have been presented to Knoxville and Knox County's most beautiful properties since 1979.

Join them in celebrating the architects, artists, developers and community members that are beautifying our city. All proceeds benefit Keep Knoxville Beautiful's programs.

Similar to 2021, the Orchids Awards will be held virtually due to the surge in COVID-19 cases. The nominees will be announced on April 6, 2022, via livestream on their [Facebook page](#).

13. UT Offers Free Build Your Website Class

Do you want to learn how to build your own website from scratch? The University of Tennessee will be offering a free session to the community on creating your own website.

Led by Matt Lane, the workshop will be on Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 5-7 p.m. with a hybrid model. You can attend in person or via Zoom.

Register [here](#) to receive your location / Zoom link.

14. Ijams River Rescue – Save The Date

Let's clean up this town! Mark your calendar for the 33rd annual Ijams River Rescue presented by TVA on Saturday, March 12 (rain date: March 19). It's a great way to safely get outside, get active, and clean up the Tennessee River and its creeks and streams to make Knoxville an even better place to live, work and play!

This event annually brings together 500-800 volunteers to remove between 10-40 tons of trash from the Tennessee River's shorelines and its tributary creeks. In 2021, about 500 volunteers safely removed more than 15 tons of garbage from 32 sites! Let's blow that "out of the water" in 2022!

For more information, visit the Ijams River Rescue [website](#).

15. 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.*