



**The Neighborly Notice** – Vol. 15, No. 36 – Tuesday, October 4, 2022

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Newsletter (PDF version): <https://bit.ly/NeighborlyNotice-2022-10-04>

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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. Westwood Wins Fifth Annual Wiffleball Tournament**

**Westwood Homeowners Association** won this year's Wiffleball Tournament!

Due to the chance of rain from Hurricane Ian, the tournament was held indoors. The final championship game came down to rivals **Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association** and **Westwood Homeowners Association**. Both groups have each won two tournaments in the past.

The following groups participated in this year's event:

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

Thanks to all the folks who came out in support of their neighborhoods! Everyone had such a blast, and we are already looking forward to next year!

## **2. Neighborhood Small Grants Program Supports East Knoxville Event**

Last Friday, Town Hall East invited all neighborhood associations, watches, and HOAs in East Knoxville to an event celebrating and highlighting some of the many great things going on in the community.

The evening was mostly for socializing and getting to know one another, and the program highlighted several non-profits and businesses in the area.

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's [Neighborhood Small Grants Program \(NSGP\)](#) supported the event.

The NSGP strengthens Knoxville neighborhoods by supporting a wide range of community-based initiatives through grants and technical assistance. The program is for resident-controlled, resident-led, democratically run groups such as neighborhood watch groups, neighborhood associations, tenant associations, and homeowners associations.

The NSGP's Primary goals are to:

- Encourage neighborhood organizations to connect neighborhood residents with one another — and to engage the skills and knowledge of the residents.
- Build neighborhood capacity to plan and implement neighborhood improvement strategies.

The NSGP's Secondary goals are to:

- Increase the number of residents and resident leaders (including youth) involved in responding constructively to neighborhood issues, problems and opportunities.
- Strengthen each neighborhood's connection to other neighborhoods, existing community assets, and partnership opportunities.
- Support efforts to form neighborhood groups in unorganized areas.

The next grant cycle begins in Spring 2023 with a series of mandatory workshops for those interested in applying for a grant awarded in 2024.

To learn more about the NSGP, please visit the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's [website](#).

### **3. KCDC Awarded \$40 Million For Transforming Western Project**

On Friday, Sept. 23, federal, state, local and community representatives gathered in Western Heights to celebrate the \$40 million grant that will help wholly transform the neighborhood with enhanced access to housing, economic opportunity, transportation and youth development.

Knoxville is one of only four cities to receive the Choice Neighborhoods grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In total, more than \$220 million in public and private funds have been committed to support the Transforming Western initiative.

At the event, Region 4 HUD administrator Jose Alvarez officially acknowledged the Choice Neighborhoods grant; additional speakers included Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) CEO Ben Bentley, HUD Choice Neighborhoods Director Luci Blackburn, and State Rep. Sam McKenzie.

The awarding of the highly competitive grant followed a process that began in February 2021 with insight from Western Heights residents followed by meetings with 17 groups with a stake in the neighborhood.

The Transforming Western initiative addresses three key components: housing, neighborhood, and people.

The housing component will rebuild 196 units of the affordable housing currently at Western Heights. The addition of 283 new units of affordable and market-rate housing will create a diverse, mixed-income community. The property's location will allow the offering of various choices in housing style and highlight the aspirational views of the city and mountains.

The neighborhood component will address safety; transportation; open space such as parks and recreation; arts, culture and entrepreneurship; and cohesiveness of the community. Two large, regional destination parks will include features such as a hillside climbing park, playground and splash pad. Spaces for creativity and entrepreneurship will be built to create a new neighborhood economic center, and spaces for food service and an entrepreneurial kitchen will be added.

The people component focuses on improving education outcomes; offering better internet access; boosting healthcare availability; establishing enrichment opportunities for youth; securing living wage jobs and career paths; and offering access to affordable, healthy and fresh foods. Dozens of area non-profit partners will join forces and provide supportive services, programs and activities for the area's residents.

For more information about the Transforming Western project, please visit their [website](#).

#### **4. Arbor Day Celebration Has A Time Change**

The City of Knoxville will celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, Nov. 4, **at 11 a.m. instead of 1 p.m.**, at Sam Duff Park, 4060 Chapman Hwy.

The celebration will include tree plantings, neighborhood representatives discussing Wildlife Habitat certification, and a mayoral proclamation. All are welcome to join.

While the national celebration of Arbor Day is in April, our event is held in fall, which is the best time to plant trees in Knoxville. Mark your calendars to join us for this kid-friendly event. More details will follow in this publication as we get closer to time.

#### **5. Deadline for Officer Liaison of the Year Nominations is This Friday!**

Nominations for Officer Liaison of the Year are open and will be accepted through this Friday, Oct. 7, at 4:30 p.m.

Does your neighborhood group have a KPD officer liaison who goes beyond the call of duty for your neighborhood? Is he/she the one checking on neighborhood concerns and following up on issues, sharing prevention ideas, and being an all-around great advocate for the community?

We want to hear about it!

Nominate your neighborhood's Officer Liaison by completing this [application](#) and return it to Courtney Durrett at [cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov) or by mail to the following address:

Courtney Durrett  
Office of Neighborhood Empowerment – Room 546  
City of Knoxville  
P.O. Box 1631  
Knoxville, TN 37901

If you would like a hard copy of the application mailed to you, please call the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment at 865-215-3232.

Nominees will be announced in the *Neighborly Notice* in late October.

#### **6. The League of Women Voters Hosts State Senate Candidate Forum**

The [League of Women Voters of Knoxville Knox County](#) and its partners are sponsoring a candidate forum for candidates running for State Senate District 7, on Tuesday, Oct.

4, at 6:30-8 p.m. in the Community Room of the Public Works Complex, 3131 Morris Ave. Park and enter around the back of the building.

The two candidates speaking will be Richard Briggs and Bryan Langan.

The General Election will be on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Early voting runs from Wednesday, Oct. 19-Thursday, Nov. 3.

The following organizations are partnering with the LWVKKC in this forum: the American Muslim Advisory Council, East Tennessee Society of Professional Journalists, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy UTK, and the Knoxville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Also partnering will be Knoxville Area Urban League, Knoxville Branch of the NAACP, Knoxville News Sentinel, Voter Education Fund, and YWCA of Knoxville and the TN Valley.

LWVKKC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Candidate forums sponsored by the League honor the League's longstanding nonpartisan practices to ensure trust, respect, and fairness to all who participate. They use a standard set of guidelines for candidates, moderators, volunteers, and the audience.

## **7. What is Your Neighborhood Doing For Halloween?**

Break out the pumpkin-carving kits and spooky decorations, because it is time for Halloween, and the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment wants to hear from you!

Is your neighborhood planning anything special for the upcoming holiday? If so, reach out to us by email at [emays@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:emays@knoxvilletn.gov).

Several local news agencies are looking for Halloween festivities to cover for their publications, and we would be happy to give them information about your event. Or, if you do not want the press to be there, but would like us to share your event in our newsletter, that's fine too! We would love to share your creative ideas with folks to spread the fun. Either way, we are excited to hear about fun, spooky festivities happening in the community.

If your neighborhood does not have anything planned, but you are looking for ideas, consider doing a trick 'r treat carpool sign-up, a trunk 'r treat party, or even a neighborhood Halloween scavenger hunt!

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

Call 865-215-3232 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 Community Empowerment Director Charles F. Lomax Jr at [clomax@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:clomax@knoxvilletn.gov) or 865-215-2536. For disability accommodations, contact City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Brewer Cook at [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov) or 865-215-2034 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 865-215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*