



**The Neighborly Notice** – Vol. 15, No. 7 – Tuesday, February 22, 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. Little Free Library Opens at the Vista at Summit Hill**

Members of the Rotary Club of Knoxville have officially opened a Little Free Library for residents of The Vista at Summit Hill to expand access to books, inspire readers of all ages, and build community.

Rotary Club members and representatives of Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC) celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

The free library is the Rotary Club of Knoxville's second; the first is located at KCDC's Western Heights apartments. The Vista's library will provide books to children and adults as requested by area residents. In 2021, the club hosted a book drive and fundraiser that helped the service organization expand the program and be able to restock the shelves regularly.

Members of the public can provide books for The Vista's library by dropping off donations at the Crowne Plaza Knoxville (401 W. Summit Hill Drive) or calling Ginny Weatherstone at 865-661-1004.

Other KCDC properties with Little Free Library access include Five Points, Western Heights and Lonsdale Homes. KCDC is seeking individual, corporate or organization donors to add the libraries at Autumn Landing, Montgomery Village, Nature's Cove and North Ridge Crossing. Cagle Terrace and Northgate Terrace maintain indoor libraries and are in need of donations and assistance in maintaining those larger collections. To inquire about donating books, contact [info@kcdc.org](mailto:info@kcdc.org).

## **2. Prospective Electeds Featured at 2022 Neighborhood Conference**

Do you want to know more about the candidates running for office in the 2022 Knox County elections? Come to the Neighborhood Conference!

The 2022 Neighborhood Conference will feature a Candidates Corner for [the people running for election or reelection](#) in the upcoming Knox County elections. Candidates running for County Mayor, County Commission, School Board and Sheriff will be on hand to introduce themselves, discuss their campaigns and address your questions and concerns.

Each seat will have booth space located in the Cumberland Concourse of the Convention Center, near registration. Candidates will be available 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity to speak to these candidates in one place, [register](#) for the Neighborhood Conference, which will be held on Saturday, April 2, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Knoxville Convention Center, 701 Henley St.

## **3. And the Neighbor of the Year Nominees are...**

Wow! We truly have some amazing neighbors doing great things in their communities. Thank you to everyone who took the time to recognize the work these people are doing by nominating them for the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award.

The nominees are:

- Beth Booker (posthumously) – Old North Knoxville Neighborhood Association
- Arturo Cano – Colonial Village Neighborhood Association
- Chris Hall – Kingston Pike - Sequoyah Hills Association
- Eric Johnson – Vestal Community Organization
- Nancy Shackelford – Sherrill Hills
- Debbie Smith – West Hills Community Association

These individuals have gone the extra mile to improve their neighborhoods without seeking recognition. They have devoted their time and talent in service to others for the betterment of their communities.

The winner will be announced during the Awards & Networking Luncheon at The Neighborhood Conference at the Knoxville Convention Center on Saturday, April 2, 2022. You must [register](#) for the conference if you plan on attending. Please join us in celebrating these individuals at the conference.

#### **4. Planning Hosts Alcoa Highway Corridor Community Meeting**

Knoxville Knox County Planning will host an Alcoa Highway Corridor Study Community Meeting on Monday, Feb. 28, at 5 p.m. at the Sevier Heights Baptist Church North Campus, 2939 Alcoa Highway. More information is available at [KnoxPlanning.org/alcoa/](http://KnoxPlanning.org/alcoa/).

Planning staff is undertaking a small area study for the portion of Alcoa Highway within Knox County to facilitate a safer, more productive, aesthetically pleasing corridor to serve the surrounding neighborhoods. Staff will review the draft of prioritized recommendations for the City of Knoxville and Knox County.

All are welcomed to join.

#### **5. BBB and POH Meet This Week**

The [Better Building Board](#) (BBB) meets on Thursday, Feb. 24, 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 [cmurke@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:cmurke@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 also 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, Feb. 25, at 9:30 a.m., in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street, and online via Zoom.

During the New Business/Orders, they will be addressing 5615 Holston Hills Rd. and 1903 Houstonia Dr. as well as their accessory structures, in addition to a discussion on the confirmation of emergency repair on the commercial property of 1400 Washington Ave.

During the Boarding Approvals portion of the meeting, they will be addressing the previously board properties 202 Cedar Lane, 101 Chamberlain Boulevard, East Fifth Avenue, 1909 Lake Avenue, 3223 Lay Avenue, 2412 Linden Avenue, 2721 East Magnolia Avenue, 117 Meadow View Road, Sevierville Pike, and 1901 Washington Pike. 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 [cmurke@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:cmurke@knoxvilletn.gov).

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 865-215-2831.

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.

## **6. Learn the Difference Between 311 and 211**

Customer Service is what the City of Knoxville 311 Center for Service Innovation is all about. City residents can dial 311 to access information about services provided by City of Knoxville departments, including Solid Waste, Public Service, Parks and Recreation, Housing and Neighborhood Development and more.

Opened in May 2005, the center serves as an easy-to-use direct line to Knoxville government and is designed to help the administration ensure that services are being delivered efficiently.

When citizens call 311, a customer service representative will enter their service request into the City's advanced tracking system and submit it to the appropriate City department immediately.

All requests for service will have a tracking number so customers can check the status and get updates on their request.

311 operators also field calls to [East Tennessee's 211 line](#) dedicated to referring residents to social services. 211 is a partnership with the Knoxville Knox County Community Action Committee's (CAC) Office on Aging and the United Ways of East Tennessee.

211 has a database of more than 10,000 health and human services programs, cross-referenced for all sorts of keywords. So, don't worry if you don't know what type of service you need or the name of an agency — just talk with the specialist at the other end of the line and they can help you find what you need. All calls are free and completely confidential.

## **7. How Does the City Replace Trees After Construction?**

It's a fact of life that construction projects can displace established trees. The City of Knoxville has rules and regulations to mitigate negative outcomes and replace trees when possible.

The City's [Tree Protection Ordinance](#) outlines how the Horticulture Department replaces public trees removed during projects. On average, the City plants about 600 trees each year. The City must replant new trees at an inch-for-inch rate for any that are removed. At times, mitigation may occur offsite for some of the replacement trees.

What is a reasonable time that a homeowner can reasonably expect for the City to replace trees?

"I expect this is the source of the greatest frustration with projects like this: there are better and worse times of the year to plant trees," says Charles Batey, Certified Arborist and Chair of the Knoxville Tree Board.

“Knoxville aims to do most, if not all, of its planting in the winter, which is the preferred timing for the health of the planted tree. Unfortunately, if the construction project in your local area finishes in April, right after the tree-planting season, you will have to wait until next year for the new trees to be planted.

“Please trust that this is being done for the good of the trees,” Batey continues. “It helps to ensure that the new tree will be healthier and more beautiful because it was planted in the proper time.”

To learn more about the timing of tree plantings, reach out to [City Tree Board](#) chair Charles Batey at [cbatey@cortesetree.com](mailto:cbatey@cortesetree.com). He loves to talk trees!

## **8. Trees Knoxville Requests Volunteers**

Trees Knoxville is requesting volunteers for a tree-planting event being held in the Fort Sanders neighborhood on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m.-12 noon.

Volunteers should [register](#) on Trees Knoxville’s website and look for further instructions in an email sent on Saturday morning.

The group will be planting 40 trees to help increase the urban canopy in a much-needed area.

This event will be rain or shine; however in the event of extreme inclement weather, please check your email for further instructions.

## **9. When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**

Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck in any season. Lightning kills 20 or more people in the U.S. annually; hundreds more are severely injured.

There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, *When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors*. Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. Unfortunately, these delayed actions lead to many of the lightning deaths and injuries.

Below are tips on how to stay safe indoors and outdoors:

- Avoid open areas. Don’t be the tallest object in the area.
- Stay away from isolated tall trees, towers, or utility poles. Lightning tends to strike the taller objects in an area.
- Stay away from metal conductors such as wires or fences. Metal does not attract lightning, but lightning can travel long distances through it.

- If you are with a group of people, spread out. While this actually increases the chance that someone might get struck, it tends to prevent multiple casualties, and increases the chances that someone could help if a person is struck.

If someone has been struck by lightning:

- Call 9-1-1.
- Give first aid. Begin CPR if you are trained.
- Use an Automatic External Defibrillator if one is available. These units are lifesavers!
- Don't be a victim. If possible, move the victim to a safer place. Lightning CAN strike twice.

For more information on lightning safety, visit <https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-safety>.

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

Call 865-215-3232 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 865-215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*

