



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 15, No. 11 – Tuesday, March 22, 2022

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Newsletter (PDF version): <https://bit.ly/NeighborlyNotice-2022-03-22>

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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.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods>

1. Deadline for Neighborhood Conference Registration is Next Week

Registration for the 2022 Neighborhood Conference will close on Monday, March 28, at 12 p.m. noon. Be sure to [register](#) before this deadline to ensure your FREE lunch ticket.

Not yet sure you want to attend? If you enjoy networking with other neighborhood representatives, learning what resources are available to Knoxville residents, honoring

neighbors and neighborhoods for the work they do in their communities, and learning valuable information, this conference is for you.

Door prizes will also be given out throughout the day.

The Neighborhood Conference will take place on Saturday, April 2, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Knoxville Convention Center. For more information about the conference, visit the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's [website](#).

2. Improve Water Quality One Yard at a Time

Today is World Water Day, marked as a United Nations Observance annually since 1993.

We are all connected by water—streams flow into rivers and into the ocean. And it begins as rain falling into our yards and into storm drains.

Knoxville residents who want to play a bigger part in supporting healthy stormwater and waterways can join the NoogaKnox Challenge, a friendly competition between Chattanooga and Knoxville to see which community can get the most residential yards certified as Smart Yards before Sept. 21. Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon and Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly have already joined the challenge!

In Knoxville, residents can get certified through the Tennessee Smart Yards program, developed by the University of Tennessee Extension Office. The program guides homeowners through the process of making their yards more stormwater friendly, through native plantings, use of swales and other techniques.

Visit KnoxvilleTN.gov/NoogaKnoxChallenge to learn more about this challenge to improve water quality across the Tennessee River watershed. And if you want to start your yard improvements today, go directly to [Tennessee Smart Yards](#) to download your workbook and begin the certification process.

3. League of Women Voters Hosts Candidate Events

The [League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County](#) and its partners will host two candidate events in March.

- A meet and greet for candidates running for Knox County Mayor will take place on Thursday, March 24, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Blount Mansion Visitors Center.
- A forum for candidates running for Knox County Sheriff and will take place Tuesday, March 29, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Knoxville Public Works Building.

All are invited to attend and meet the candidates for these two important positions in our county government.

For more information on who is running for other county seats being decided in the upcoming election, visit the [Knox County Election Commission's website](#). The primary election is May 3.

4. KAT Reimagined Stakeholder Workshop Takes Place Next Tuesday

The Knoxville Transportation Authority and Knoxville City Council members have been invited, along with other community leaders, to participate in a stakeholder workshop for KAT Reimagined, a transit planning process. There will be public input meetings in the near future, and we'll be sure to announce those dates and locations. In the meantime, here's an introduction to the project.

Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) and the Knox TPO (Transportation Planning Organization) are taking a fresh look at transit in Knoxville and the region. Their goal is to make sure that transit is operating effectively in providing access to opportunities for everyone in Knoxville and the region.

The overall project is composed of three parts:

1. The KAT Comprehensive Operational Analysis. This study looks at KAT's current service and how KAT can most effectively balance the coverage area and how well they cover that area.
2. The Regional Coordination Study. In addition to KAT, [Knox County CAC](#) provides transportation services within the city and Knox County; [East Tennessee Human Resources Agency \(ETHRA\)](#) also provides service within and beyond Knox County. This study aims to look at these three organizations and ways they can work together more effectively.
3. Regional Transit Study. The metropolitan area of Knoxville is growing rapidly, and many people commute between counties for work, shopping and more. This study aims to look at how can transit become a more regional solution to a variety of challenges, from carbon emissions to congestion.

If you want to stay informed on upcoming community engagement or provide feedback, [contact KAT](#) to stay in touch and learn about future public meetings.

5. Housing and Neighborhood Development Plan Public Meeting

The City of Knoxville Housing and Neighborhood Development Department seeks input on its draft Year Three Annual Action Plan Update to the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan. The draft Plan will be available for a 30-day public comment period beginning Friday, April 1, at www.knoxvilletn.gov/development under the "Reports and Plans" tab. A virtual public meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, at 6 p.m., via Zoom to discuss and hear input on the 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 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, which begins Friday, July 1.

The Housing and Neighborhood Development Department invites your participation and input on the draft plan. The Zoom link to the secure meeting will be posted on the Department's webpage at KnoxvilleTN.gov/Development prior to the meeting.

If you cannot make the meeting and have questions or you would like to give input, please contact Linda Rust at lrust@knoxvilletn.gov or P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901, by Monday, May 2.

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.

Individuals with a disability who require an accommodation in order to participate may contact the City of Knoxville's ADA Coordinator, Stephanie Brewer Cook at 865-215-2034 or scook@knoxvilletn.gov no less than 72 business hours (3 business days) prior to the meeting or end of the public comment period.

If you have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and want to request interpretation services, please contact the City of Knoxville's Title VI Coordinator, Tatia M. Harris at tharris@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2831, at least 48 hours (2 days) prior to the meeting or end of the public comment period.

6. Knox County Seeks Community Input for Land Use and Transportation

Knox County and Knoxville-Knox County Planning are seeking community input for Advance Knox, a comprehensive planning process that will guide land use and transportation decisions for years to come.

Do you remember ReCode? This process is different from ReCode. ReCode was a comprehensive process to update the zoning ordinance. Advance Knox is a process to create a comprehensive planning document, a general overview. It will focus on potential land use and infrastructure improvements and will not create or change ordinances that would regulate/enforce the land use.

The first round of seven workshops introducing the project will be held during Ideas Week:

- Sunday, March 27 – 1:30 p.m. at Gibbs Middle School
- Monday, March 28 – 5:30 p.m. at Hardin Valley Middle School or Carter High School
- Tuesday, March 29 – 5:30 p.m. at West High School or Northshore Elementary School
- Wednesday, March 30 – 5:30 p.m. at Powell High School or South Doyle Middle School

Participants at the 90-minute workshops will work in small groups to generate ideas and participate in map-based activities. Residents are invited to attend the workshop most convenient for them.

A virtual workshop will be held at noon on Tuesday, March 29; participants need to [register](#) ahead of time. There will also be activities available on the website to allow residents to provide input and share their ideas in another format following the workshops.

Any resident requiring special accommodations to attend a workshop should call the Knox County Mayor's office at 865-215-2005 to coordinate.

For more information about Advance Knox, please contact the project team at contact@advanceknox.org or visit advanceknox.org.

7. CAC Hosts Annual Pancake Fest

The O'Connor Pancake Fest has become an annual event that spotlights activities and participants while giving an opportunity for community fellowship.

This year's event is Friday, April 1, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the John T. O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona Street.

General admission is \$5 per person and include a box of pancakes (gluten-free and sugar-free options available), sausage, and a choice of juice, water, milk, or coffee.

Call ahead at 865-523-1135 to place your order for drive-thru pickup under the awning at the entrance of the building.

[Click here](#) to purchase your tickets!

8. Knox County Health Department Provides Diabetes Workshops

The [Knox County Health Department](#) will provide a free, three-part series on diabetes management on Tuesdays, March 29, April 5, and April 12, from 12-1 p.m. via Zoom.

Topics include information about diagnosis, diet and exercise, medications, and day-to-day management. This class will be taught in English; future classes will be taught in Spanish.

Call 865-215-5170 or visit <https://bit.ly/3ruKe4g> to register.

9. Follow the National Weather Service on Social Media For Tips

The National Weather Service (NWS) uses social media tools to educate the public and share critical information. Engaging with the public in effective conversation around important weather, water, and climate issues are a part of the NWS's efforts to build a Weather-Ready Nation.

Click on the links below to stay connected!

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nws/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWS>

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/NWS?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

Questions related to NWS social media should be directed to nws.social.media@noaa.gov.

10. 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 Diversity and Inclusion Officer Tatia M. Harris at tharris@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2831. 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.

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.*