



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 15, No. 13 – Tuesday, April 12, 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. The Neighborhood Conference was a Success

The 2022 Neighborhood Conference held Saturday, April 2, was a huge success!

Residents who attended visited some great information booths, networked with other neighborhood leaders, learned at the different workshops about creating leadership plans, the new Community Safety department, how to navigate local government and experiences of neighbors with affordable housing. Attendees were moved and inspired by guest speaker Reico Hopewell, and many guests won free door prizes.

Attendees also celebrated people doing incredible things for our community. Knoxville Police Officer John Morgan received the Officer Liaison of the Year award for his service to neighborhoods.

Two neighborhoods were recognized for their hard work with the new Healthy Knoxville program, which is focused on health and wellbeing. **Westwood Homeowners Association** was awarded the Silver level, and **West Hills Community Association** was awarded the Platinum level.

Six neighborhoods were honored for their work: **Mechanicsville Community Association, Murray Drive/Wilkerson Road Neighborhood Watch, South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association, Vestal Community Organization, West Hills Community Association, and Westmoreland Hills Homeowners Association.**

The recipient of the 2022 Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year was announced. Debbie Smith of the **West Hills Community Association** received the award for the time, energy and resources she spends making her neighborhood a more welcoming and community-oriented place.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made this year's conference a great success. Be on the lookout for a survey that will be sent to your email about what went well and what could be improved for future conferences.

See you in 2023 for the next Neighborhood Conference!

2. Island Home Trail Event Takes Place Tonight

Island Home Park will celebrate the opening of the Island Home Dogwood Trail tonight, Tuesday, April 12, from 4-6 p.m. on Island Home Blvd. Look for the canopy set up on Island Home Boulevard. Guests can enjoy light refreshments and pick up Dogwood Trail information.

Knoxville's iconic Dogwood Trails date back to 1955 and today cover more than 85 miles in 12 neighborhoods throughout the city. Take a drive, a walk, or a bike ride and enjoy the scenic natural beauty of our region!

For more information about the 2022 featured trail events in South Knoxville, please visit <https://www.dogwoodarts.com/trailsandgardens>.

3. Save the Date for the Historic Fourth & Gill Homes Tour

Mark your calendar for the 32nd Anniversary Historic Fourth & Gill Tour of Homes taking place on Saturday, June 25.

The **Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization** invites you to spend the day with them for this annual tradition. New features of the 2022 tour include a VIP Champagne Brunch with resident Mayor Indya Kincannon, as well as a tour of secret gardens throughout the neighborhood.

The tour will feature the beautiful Gothic Revival architecture of Central United Methodist Church along with seven historic homes and seven meticulously designed gardens. The church organist will perform concerts at 2 and 4 p.m. in the church sanctuary, showcasing the exquisite pipe organ acquired from the downtown Riviera Theater in 1935.

For more information and for tickets, visit the event [website](#).

4. Neighborhood Advisory Council Meets Tomorrow

The [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC) meets tomorrow, Wednesday, April 13, from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine St.

The topics for this month are: Invasive Plant Removal, the purpose and activity of the City's Tree Board, and how nonprofit Trees Knoxville may be able to help with neighborhood tree plantings.

All are welcome to attend. As a matter of procedure, we allow NAC members to voice their input first. If there is time at the end, other attendees may be allowed to give input as well.

The NAC advises and provides input only to the Mayor and the City administration. It does not advise Knoxville City Council, Knoxville-Knox County Planning and other elected and appointed bodies; however, they may speak on behalf of their neighborhoods or as individuals.

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

5. Mandatory Neighborhood Small Grants Workshops are Quickly Approaching

Neighborhood groups wishing to apply for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP) **must** send a representative to ONE of three mandatory pre-application workshops being held **Saturday, Apr. 23; Tuesday, Apr. 26; OR Wednesday, May 4.**

Even if your group is doubtful you will apply, send someone to one of the workshops anyway. It could help you learn how to apply in the future or it could ensure that you have met this requirement to preserve your right to apply in this 2023 round.

Pre-Application Workshop A 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23 at 3131 Morris Ave.

Pre-Application Workshop B 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 26 via Zoom

Pre-Application Workshop C 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 via Zoom

The NSGP is designed to strengthen Knoxville neighborhoods by supporting a wide range of community-based initiatives through grants and technical assistance.

Please register with Hayley Howard by sending her an email at hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov or calling 865-215-2113. Zoom links will be provided when you register. If a neighborhood representative absolutely cannot attend any workshop, please call Hayley Howard.

For more information about the NSGP, please visit [ONE's website](#).

6. Contribute Your Land Use Ideas to Advance Knox

The Advance Knox team would like to hear your thoughts and ideas to improve the quality of life in Knox County.

Advance Knox is an effort to define a vision and create a plan that will guide growth, land use, transportation, economic prosperity, and quality of life in Knox County for years to come. This process is the first time Knox County has created an integrated land use and transportation plan, and it has the potential to be transformative.

At the end of March, the project team hosted several events, both in-person and virtual, to talk to community members and get input. Attendees were asked what they love about Knox County today and what they want to see in the future and were given opportunities to make comments and mark locations on maps.

If you missed those workshops or just have more to say, all the activities that were available at the events are now online! Please check out the activities at the Advance Knox [website](#) and share your ideas through Friday, April 22.

7. State of the City Address Announced

Mayor Indya Kincannon cordially invites you to the Mayor's State of the City Address on Friday, April 22, at 12 noon, at the City of Knoxville Public Safety Complex, on Huron Street, former location of the historic St. Mary's Hospital campus.

The Mayor will announced her proposed 2022-2023 budget. The event will honor the past of the beloved St. Mary's Hospital and celebrating the site's future as the new home for the Knoxville Police and Fire departments, and other public safety partners.

All are invited to attend this in-person event, and a brown bag lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by April 14 by calling the City's 311 line (865-215-4311). Parking will be available near the site and can be accessed via Huron Street and Oak Hill Avenue. Or you can catch the KAT 21 bus and not have to worry about parking.

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8. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets Next Week

The [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) (BZA) meets next Tuesday, April 19, at 4 p.m. in the Circuit Court Division II court room in the City County Building.

If you have comments, questions about an agenda item, about the Board of Zoning Appeals, or would like to watch via Zoom, please contact the City of Knoxville Zoning Office at 865-215-3669.

Properties that will be reviewed for variances will be 305 West Vine Ave., 6603 Stone Mill Dr., 4345 Apex Dr., 4341 Apex Dr., and 407 Saint Paul Street/316 Blount Ave.

The Board of Zoning Appeals hears certain appeals of denials of building permits by the City's Plans Review and Inspections Department. An applicant can request a variance from the Zoning Code requirements or can appeal an administrative official's interpretation of the Zoning Code.

Decisions of the Board of Zoning Appeals can be appealed to City Council within 15 days of the Board's decision. Appeals of a City Council decision related to Board of Zoning Appeals are made to Chancery Court.

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The next BZA meeting will be on Tuesday, May 17.

9. City Offices Closed For Easter Holiday

The City of Knoxville offices will be closed on Friday, April 15, to commemorate Good Friday. That includes the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Waste Connections will run its normal residential garbage and recycling routes on that day. *(Please note: Thanksgiving and Christmas are the only days of the year when residential curbside trash and recycling are not picked up as scheduled.)*

Downtown trash and recyclables also will be collected as usual on the Good Friday holiday and on Easter Sunday.

The City's five recycling drop-off centers will be open on Good Friday, but the Goodwill attendant will only be available to receive donations of household goods until 1:00 PM.

The City's Solid Waste Facility, 1033 Elm St., will be closed on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16.

10. City Creates Greenways Ambassadors Program

Do you frequent one of Knoxville's greenways? Are you willing to share your enthusiasm about greenway use with others?

The City announced the new Greenways Ambassador program at the 2022 Neighborhood Conference.

The volunteer Greenways Ambassador initiative was developed by the Knoxville Greenways Commission, with support from the Parks and Recreation Department.

Greenways Ambassadors will answer greenway users' questions, pick up litter, promote appropriate greenways etiquette, report trail conditions, provide basic assistance in the event of an emergency, and, if certified to do so, provide First Aid. Knoxville boasts more than 112 miles of greenways and soft surface trails, with about 54 miles of paved, ADA-accessible greenways.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and are required to complete online training and spend a minimum of one hour on a greenway at least four times per month. Greenway Ambassadors can choose their greenway and the times they volunteer.

Interested in serving as a volunteer Greenway Ambassador? Click here – <https://bit.ly/35uqJRO> – for more details and to access a registration form.

Additional questions about the program can be emailed to greenwaysranger@knoxvilletn.gov, or call 865-215-1720.

11. Participate in the Knoxville Senior Co-Ed Softball League

Are you aged 50 or older and looking for a fun way to exercise?

This program offers seniors the opportunity to play in a co-ed, slow-pitch softball league for \$10 for the season.

The league is for women aged 50 and older and men aged 60 and older. Teams play on the beautiful fields at Caswell Park on Winona St. on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. starting now through October. There are six teams: Young at Heart, Blue Sox, Cardinals, Greyhounds, Yellow Jackets, and the Mean Greenies. For those players who can't commit to playing both days every week, there is the Green Hornet Team. Players will be assigned to one of the six regular teams.

For more information about the league, please call 865-424-0933 or email cheathama@gmail.com.

12. Looking Ahead to Parks and Rec Programs

Summer and warm weather are fast approaching, which means new and exciting events from Parks and Recreation! Whether you are looking to get out of the house in the near future and enjoy the outdoors, get a few more steps in, or even learn to line dance, there is an activity for everyone! Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Senior Looming is happening every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at the Larry Cox Senior Center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Fit and Fun Fitness is held every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Come out and strut your stuff at Line Dancing, happening from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at West Haven every Tuesday.
- Adult Open Dodgeball is scheduled for every Wednesday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Cumberland Estates.
- Looking to sharpen your basketball skills? Advanced Basketball Training and Skills for Adults is happening every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If you are more interested in outdoor programs, get outside at these fun events:

- Peace Passion Yoga is scheduled for every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at Sequoyah Hills Park, and attendance costs \$10.
- Are you a runner? Come out to a 5K every Saturday starting at 8 a.m. at the Third Creek Greenway. You can pre-register for this FREE event [here!](#)

There is always something to do in Knoxville, so take advantage of these fun upcoming programs! For more information or to learn about even more programs, visit the [Parks and Recreation website](#).

13. CAC Office on Aging Seeking Volunteers

Are you looking for new ways to involved in the Knoxville community? Want to make some new friends? The CAC Office on Aging may be the solution. They are currently seeking volunteers ages 55 and older for the program Senior Care Calls.

This program, originally launched during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, seeks to alleviate loneliness and depression among senior citizens who are unable to leave their homes. As a volunteer, you would be making weekly calls to a senior citizen over a six month period.

For more information about how to sign up, visit the volunteer [website](#), or call 865-524-2786 and ask for Senior Care Calls.

14. 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.*