



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 15, No. 19 – Tuesday, May 24, 2022

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Newsletter (PDF version): <https://bit.ly/NeighborlyNotice-2022-5-24>

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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. What is a Tennessee Smart Yard?

A Smart Yard is a yard that is in balance with the local environment for the benefit of both people and our ecosystem.

Tennessee Smart Yards is a University of Tennessee Extension-led program that guides residents on practices they can apply in their outdoor spaces to create healthier, more ecologically sound landscapes and communities.

You don't need to be an expert gardener or landscaper to create a Tennessee Smart Yard. All it takes is a willingness to learn and a desire to take actions described in the Tennessee Smart Yard workbook. Maintaining a Tennessee Smart Yard provides natural functionality for homeowners through working with nature for the benefit of both.

If you and your neighbors are motivated by a bit of competition, Knoxville and Chattanooga are vying for the position of most yards certified by Sept. 21, 2022. Learn more about the [NoogaKnox Challenge](#) on the City's website, and download the certification workbook and materials at <https://tnyards.utk.edu/>.

2. Cumberland Estates Holds Annual Yard Sale

Cumberland Estates Neighborhood Watch will hold its annual Yard Sale on Saturday, June 4, at different houses around the neighborhood.

Participating residents will use directional signs to guide shoppers to yard sale locations in this neighborhood located off Western Avenue.

See what the neighborhood is looking to sell. You might get lucky and stumble upon a great find.

3. City Announces Memorial Weekend Schedule

The City of Knoxville offices will be closed on Monday, May 30, for the Memorial Day Holiday, and that includes the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Waste Connections will run residential garbage and recycling routes on Monday, May 30, as usual. As a general reminder, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day are the only days of the year when residential curbside trash and recycling are not picked up as scheduled.

Downtown trash and recycling will also run on its regular schedule throughout the Memorial Day weekend.

The City's five recycling drop-off centers will be open, but the Goodwill attendant will not be present to receive donations of household goods. The City's Solid Waste Facility, 1033 Elm St., will be closed Saturday, May 28 through Monday, May 30.

4. Challenge Grants Are Now Open!

It is that time of year again when the City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department opens up their annual Challenge Grant Program.

This match grant provides funds to non-profit and community projects associated with public parks or recreation facilities within the City limits.

The grants are available to 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(6) status community groups, homeowner associations, schools, Scout troops and other organizations.

Recipients of a challenge grant will be reimbursed 50 percent of the cost of a single project, up to \$2,500.

In past years, grants have been used for beautification projects, picnic tables, signage, benches, and landscaping. The Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department has been awarding challenge grants to non-profit groups for more than 25 years.

Challenge Grants may also be used to promote activities in City Parks and on Greenways. Grants can provide matching funds for various fitness classes such as Yoga, Tai Chi, or other activities. Passive programming for activities such as painting and birdwatching will also be considered. Approved activities must be on City Park properties, and all other rules associated with the Challenge Grant Program will apply.

In order to receive a grant, the projects are preferred to be on City-owned or leased property, but must be related to a facility that is available to all residents on a yearly basis.

Grant funding may not be used to purchase a new facility, regular maintenance, or for the purchase of individual or team equipment.

View details and download an application at the [City's website](#).

5. BBB and POH Meet This Week

The [Better Building Board](#) (BBB) meets on Thursday, May 26, at 3:30 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main Street, and online via [Zoom](#).

The BBB will review for determination of Blight the following two properties: 3609 Cherrylog Rd. and 0 Maplewood Drive.

Speakers must register in advance. 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 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, May 27, 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 2402 Cedar Ln., including accessory structure; 810 Lemon St., including accessory structure; 5135 McIntyre Road, including accessory structure; 984 Valley Dr.; and 102 View Rd., including accessory structures.

During the Boarding Approvals portion of the meeting, they will be addressing 1935 Fair Dr. and 2311 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.

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@knoxville.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, Dr. Charles F. Lomax, Jr. at clomax@knoxville.gov or 865-215-2536

For disability accommodations, contact City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Brewer Cook at scook@knoxville.gov or 865-215-2034 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

6. City Offers Free Park Activities For Kids

Starting June 1, families are invited to participate in crafts, games and other activities on Wednesdays in June and July from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in eight different City parks and natural areas.

Kid A' Riffic Fun in the Park, sponsored by Home Federal Bank, is for families with children age 2-12 offering activities, games, hands-on crafts and other fun pursuits hosted by the City of Knoxville Office of Special Events, Parks and Recreation Department, and community partners.

Participation is free, and no registration is required.

Kid A'Riffic schedule:

- June 1 – Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Avenue
- June 8 – Lakeshore Park, 6410 S. Northshore Drive
- June 15 – Victor Ashe Park, 49001 Bradshaw Road
- June 22 – Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum, 2743 Wimpole Avenue
- June 29 – Fountain City Park, 117 Hotel Road
- July 13 – Baker Creek Preserve, 3700 Lancaster Drive
- July 20 – World's Fair Park Festival Lawn
- July 27 – Inskip Park, 4204 Bruhin Road

Kid A' Riffic was established in 2019 in Market Square as a weekly opportunity for summertime activities for youngsters and their families.

For more information about the City parks' amenities, visit the [City's website](#).

If you have questions about individual Kid A' Riffic Fun in the Park events, contact Special Events at specialevents@knoxvilletn.gov or call 865-215-4248.

7. Tips on Writing Bylaws for Neighborhood Organizations

A good rule in writing bylaws is to keep them as simple as possible.

An effective set of Neighborhood Association bylaws should include:

- Boundaries
- Official Name of Association
- Purpose of the Organization
- Membership Rights and Qualifications
- Election and Voting Procedures
- Officer titles, terms, and responsibilities
- How to amend bylaws
- Dues: How much, how, and when are they collected and by whom?
- Brief financial responsibilities: Monies are to be deposited in a bank account, how many signatures required on each check, who has access to the account, where

records are kept, the amount that can be spent by board without membership approval.

Homeowners associations that handle large amounts of money and have more of a potential to be sued should consult an attorney before adopting bylaws.

Smaller neighborhood associations usually choose not to consult a lawyer as long as the association has ample time to review the proposed bylaws before ratification.

Unless you incorporate with the Tennessee Secretary of State's office, you will not need to "file" your bylaws anywhere, but you should have a current copy of them at every meeting in case procedural questions come up.

In the very rare circumstance that your association would be called into court, your bylaws would probably be the most important document you have. Once passed, make sure your association follows the bylaws.

For more information on writing bylaws, please contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-4382.

8. 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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To request language translation services, contact Community Empowerment Director Charles F. Lomax Jr at clomax@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2536. 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.*