



**The Neighborly Notice** – Vol. 16, No. 2 – Tuesday, January 17, 2023

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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's Changed with the Neighborhood Conference?**

Since 2013, the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment has hosted an annual event that engages neighbors, celebrates good deeds, collaborates with other neighborhoods, and provides residents with opportunities to learn about City and County services, non-profit resources, and more. This year, the Neighborhood Conference is being split into two smaller events:

- The invitation-only Neighborhood Awards Dinner will be held in early March to celebrate the Good Neighbor of the Year, the Officer Liaison of the Year, Neighborhood Achievement Award recipients, Healthy Knoxville participants and Wiffleball Champions. Honorees and their guests will receive invitations from the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment.
- The Neighborhood Resource Fair will be held Saturday, Aug. 12. This energetic event will replicate the “booths room” component of the Neighborhood conference, with opportunities to meet City/County staff, non-profit organizations, have fun, connect with other neighbors and groups, etc.

We will also provide workshops throughout the year rather than all in one day. We are always thinking of hot topics to bring to neighbors so that you can learn more about them and are also open to suggestions on workshop topics so feel free to send us your ideas. Please send any workshop ideas to Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov).

We are excited to freshen up and build upon the Neighborhood Conference concept and continue working with neighbors, celebrating your accomplishments and connecting you with resources to make your neighborhoods the best they can be.

## **2. City of Knoxville to Host Public Meetings**

Save the dates! The City will host two open-house-style meetings to provide updates and gather public input on a variety of projects in each area:

- North Knoxville - Thursday, Feb. 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Fulton High School Library, 2509 N. Broadway
- South Knoxville - Monday, Feb. 13, 4-6:30 p.m. at Kerbela Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave.

Neighbors can attend anytime during the open house and will have the opportunity to interact with City staff and community partners.

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 the City’s Human Resources Department at [titlevi@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:titlevi@knoxvilletn.gov) or 865-215-3100. 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.

## **3. Housing and Neighborhood Development Plans Public Input Meeting**

The City of Knoxville Housing and Neighborhood Development Department seeks input on its Year Four Annual Action Plan Update for the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan. A public meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m., at the City's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue, to discuss and hear input for the 2023-2024 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 Update accommodates for changes in community conditions and needs, funding resources, etc. that impact how federal funds should be allocated locally for the program year starting July 1, 2023.

At this meeting, City staff will:

- Discuss anticipated HUD and local funding for the 2023-2024 program year;
- Review priority goals and objectives from its 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan;
- Provide a description of unmet needs and gaps identified through consultation meetings with stakeholders, regarding: Non-housing community development needs (including economic development, neighborhood stabilization, public services, public facility and infrastructure improvements); homelessness needs; and affordable housing needs;
- Describe the process for developing the draft 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan, including how the public may provide input; and
- Inform agencies on how they may apply for grant funding to meet priority goals and objectives.

The Housing and Neighborhood Development Department would like to encourage your participation and hear your input. If you cannot make the meeting and would like to give input or have questions, please contact Linda Rust at [lrust@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:lrust@knoxvilletn.gov) or P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901.

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](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov) no less than 72 business hours (3 business days) prior to the meeting you wish to attend. If you have Limited English

Proficiency (LEP) and want to request language translation services, contact the Human Resources Department at [titlevi@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:titlevi@knoxvilletn.gov), or 865-215-3100 at least 48 hours (2 days) prior to the meeting.

#### **4. Community Input is Needed for the Urban Forest Master Plan**

Knoxville is investing in trees for the long term.

The tree canopy in Knoxville has seen many changes in the last decade, and is vulnerable to threats from disease, pests, the changing climate, city population and development growth. For this reason, the Knoxville community is embarking on the development of an Urban Forest Master Plan. This plan will be spearheaded by Trees Knoxville, and in partnership with the City of Knoxville, the State of Tennessee, Keep Knoxville Beautiful and the Knoxville Utilities Board.

As a majority of the tree canopy in Knoxville is located on privately owned land, any progress in improving and growing the canopy will require a true community effort, and your input is needed.

For more information about the Knoxville tree plan, to get involved, or provide your feedback, please visit <https://www.knoxvilletreeplan.org/>.

If you would like Kasey Krouse to attend your next neighborhood meeting to discuss this effort and receive your community's input in person, please email him at [kkrouse@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:kkrouse@knoxvilletn.gov).

#### **5. PARC Announces Quarterly Meeting**

The Police Advisory Review Committee (PARC) will hold its fourth quarterly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 6 p.m., at the Public Works Building, Community Room, 3131 Morris Ave. Committee members will address complaints that came in during the last quarter of 2022, Oct. 1-Dec. 31.

If you wish to speak at the meeting, you may contact Tiffany Davidson at [tdavidson@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:tdavidson@knoxvilletn.gov) before 3 p.m. on the day of the meeting, or you may use this [form](#) to sign up to speak during the public forum portion of the PARC meeting. Confirmed speakers will receive a confirmation email from PARC.

Community members may also sign up in person the day of the meeting between 5:30-6 p.m.

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## **6. Do You Have Blight in Your Neighborhood?**

Is blight a problem in your neighborhood? And you aren't sure what to do about it? The staff from the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Neighborhood Codes Enforcement Office has developed a two-pronged neighborhood approach to blight remediation.

The short-term approach is detailed in our [Neighborhood Give Day](#) guide. Also available is the [Long Term Neighborhood Blight Remediation](#) guide, which describes ways neighborhoods can be proactive to improve their neighborhood.

Contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382 for more information. To report a blighted property, first call 311. To follow up on a blighted property that does not seem to be improving, fill out the [Blighted Property Profile](#) and email it to Cheri Burke at [cmurke@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:cmurke@knoxvilletn.gov).

## **7. Learn About Bridging the Gap Toward Equity**

Each January for Health Disparities Awareness Month, the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine raises awareness of health disparities through a series of presentations, which are available for viewing by the public via Zoom. The theme for 2023 is "Bridging the Gap Toward Equity." Presentation topics include socioeconomic and environmental factors that affect health; cultural competency and cultural humility; care of LGBTQ+ patients; and more.

View a list of presentations and Zoom links at <https://gsm.utmck.edu/about/HealthDisparities.cfm>

On Jan. 18, Dr. Oluwaferanmi Okanlami will discuss his own struggle to define his personal and professional identity through a framework of intersectionality in a presentation titled "Disabusing Disability and Redefining Race."

Dr. Oluwaferanmi Okanlami, MD, MS, is the Director of Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services at the University of Michigan, and he is also an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Urology at Michigan Medicine.

This free, virtual event will take place via [Zoom](#) on Wednesday, Jan. 18, from 12-1 p.m.

**[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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**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](#)

The City of Knoxville requires a permit to operate a short-term rental property. Details and a list of short-term rental permits are located on the City's website [here](#).

**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.*