



**The Neighborly Notice** – Vol. 16, No. 27 – Tuesday, July 25, 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 865-215-3232. News deadline: 12 noon on Fridays.*

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### **1. Register for Resource Fair for Additional Chances to Win Door Prizes**

Attendees who [register](#) for the Neighborhood Resource Fair by Monday, Aug. 7, will increase their chances of winning a door prize during the hourly drawings.

You might be wondering what fun door prizes will be given out the day of the event...

- Anker PowerCore Phone Power Bank
- Picnic Time Catalina Picnic Basket
- Hearth & Hand Picnic Blanket
- Room Essentials 12lb. Weighted Throw Blanket
- Crock Pot Artisan 5qt. Dutch Oven
- Pyrex 20-Piece Glass Food Storage Set
- Keurig K-Mini Single Serve Coffee Maker + Donut Shop Coffee Pods
- JBL Tune Wireless Bluetooth Earbuds
- Shark Wandvac Cordless Stick Vacuum
- Fitbit Versa 4 Smartwatch

Winners must be present to accept the door prize.

The Neighborhood Resource Fair will take place on Saturday, Aug. 12, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon, at the Jacob Building in Chilhowee Park, 401 Lakeside St.

For more information about the event, please contact Hayley Howard at [hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov).

## **2. City Accepting Neighborhood Advisory Council Applications**

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment is now accepting applications for the [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC).

Have you ever wondered how you and your neighbors can better engage with the City of Knoxville, its offices and services? Are you an advocate for your neighborhood...and neighborhoods in general? Would you like to learn more about how city government works? Do you enjoy discussing public policy, particularly concerning neighborhoods? Would you like to work with other neighborhood leaders on neighborhood issues?

If you answered YES to these questions, consider applying!

The NAC meets at 4:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and December). We ask that applicants commit to attending these meetings, missing only when necessary.

NAC consists of neighborhood leaders and advocates who occupy 15 seats – two in each of the six City Council districts and three at-large members. Terms are set for three years, and members may serve up to two full terms (six years). Members wishing to serve a second three-year term must reapply.

The following seats are currently open:

- Seat 2-B (Alanna McKissack)

- Seat 3-A (Vacant)
- Seat 4-B (Brent Waugh)
- Seat 5-A (Philip Hipps)
- Seat 6-A (Vacant)
- At-Large Seat C (Emma Ellis-Cosigua)

To be appointed by the Mayor to a numbered seat, you must live in that City Council district. For example, the person appointed to Seat 2-A must be a resident in the Second Council district. The At-Large candidate may live anywhere within the city. These positions run January 2024 through December 2026.

If you are interested in serving, please fill out and submit an [application](#), and return it to Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov). You can also mail the application to Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville TN, 37901.

Applications are due by **Friday, Aug. 25, at 4:30 p.m.**

Call the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment at 865-215-3232 to have a hard copy mailed to you, or if you would like more information about the appointments.

### **3. ONE Offers Leadership Training Classes**

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) is proud to bring back our leadership training class called Building Strong Neighborhood Organizations.

The program consists of 11 classes, starting Monday, Sept. 11, and running through Monday, Nov. 20. Graduation is slated for Saturday, Dec. 2. It is a time commitment for participants, but one that is well worth the effort.

Folks who complete the class will be eligible for Micro Grant Funding. Although there can be more than one person per neighborhood accepted in the training, there will only be one Micro Grant awarded per neighborhood.

In next week's newsletter, you will be able to apply for your spot in the class. Space will be limited to 20. Priority will be given to Knoxville residents, those who are new or newish to the city, or those struggling to organize a neighborhood.

### **4. BBB Cancelled; POH Meets This Week**

The Better Building Board meeting for July 27 has been canceled, as there is no business before the board this month.

A Public Officer Hearing will take place this Friday, July 28, at 9:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, located at 400 Main St.

Properties that will be discussed under New Business/Orders will be:

- 3910 Carnation Dr., including accessory structure
- 7108 Chapman Hwy, including accessory structures – Commercial
- 3621 Dance Ave., including accessory structures
- 2909 Linden Ave., including accessory structures

Boarding Approvals that will be discussed are:

- 4301 Asheville Hwy.
- 2401 N. Central St.
- 314 W. Church Ave. aka 322 W. Church Ave.
- 2415 Hoitt Ave.
- 211 Richmond Ave.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, you may wish to attend the meeting in order to speak to their condition.

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

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.

## **5. West District Hosts Command Forum**

Knoxville Police Department's West District is hosting their quarterly Command Forum on Wednesday, July 26, from 6-7 p.m. at the Public Works Service Center, located at 3131 Morris Ave.

Residents living West of Interstate 275 (excluding downtown and south, which are in the Central District) are invited to attend.

West District Commander, John Kiely, and his support staff will be there to discuss ongoing crime trends in the district, crime prevention tips, and answer questions and address the concerns of residents.

RSVP at the Facebook event page [here](#).

## **6. KEMA Hosts Community Emergency Response Teams Training**

Knoxville Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) is hosting a Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training this fall!

The CERT trainings will take place from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on the following Saturdays:

- Aug. 26
- Sept. 16
- Oct. 7
- Oct. 28

Topics covered in the training include:

- Disaster Preparedness
- CERT Organization
- Light Search and Rescue
- Disaster Psychology
- Fire and Hazardous Materials Safety
- Medical Operations
- CERT and Terrorism

The last day will include a final exercise and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Fair to connect attendees with local volunteer agencies.

If you or anyone you know is interested in participating, you can apply online [here](#).

There is no set deadline for applications; however, the cut off will be when they reach 25 participants.

## **7. Public Hearing to Announce KAT's Proposed Service Changes**

A public hearing will be held to announce the recommended Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) bus network on Thursday, July 27 at 3 p.m. in the City County Building's Main Assembly Room, 400 Main St.

The KAT Reimagined project is a system-wide reimagining of the KAT bus network: where the buses go, and how often. Recently, KAT Reimagined has been developing a plan to improve transit services in Knoxville.

The board voted to present the public with this cost-neutral version of the route network which incorporates a new bus route focused on seniors.

The recommended network incorporates several changes based on public feedback received during the last public engagement process, which include:

- The addition of a new Route 23 – Millertown that would also serve O'Connor Senior Center, in addition to Broadway Towers, Washington Pike, and Wal Mart east.
- Route changes to better serve Austin-East High School, Inskip Pool, and Main St.
- Temporary route adjustments until pedestrian infrastructure and traffic signal issues can be resolved, namely on Division St. and on Clinton Hwy. Once these

infrastructure changes occur, the route will return to the original draft network routing.

While incorporating these changes, the recommended network plan increases frequencies to 15-minute service along Cumberland Ave. and Sutherland Ave. to Bearden, Magnolia Ave., and from downtown out to the Food City on Western Ave. Sunday service improves dramatically, with more routes and better frequencies on most routes – all while remaining cost neutral.

The plan improves 45-minute job access by 16% for overall residents, 20% for low-income residents, and 24% for residents of color.

For more information about the recommended network, please visit the [KAT Reimagined website](#).

## **8. LWV Hosts Two Candidate Forums**

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County has scheduled two candidate forums for the Knoxville City Primary Election cycle this summer.

The forum for candidates for Knoxville City Mayor will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 1, from 6:30-8 p.m., at the Knoxville Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Ave.

The forum for candidates for Knoxville City Council At-Large Seats A, B, and C, will take place on Monday, Aug. 7, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the Main Auditorium of West High School, located at 3300 Sutherland Ave.

The forums will be live-streamed on the [Facebook page of the League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County](#) and archived for later viewing.

Early voting in the primary runs from Wednesday, Aug. 9, through Thursday, Aug. 24, and Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 29.

## **9. Did You Know – The City Has Food Scraps Drop-Offs?**

In February 2022, the City's Waste and Resource Management Office launched the Knoxville Compost Pilot Project and a single food scraps drop-off location at the recycling center in the Old City. Because of its great success, and with the assistance of a recent grant, what started as a pilot project has officially become the Knoxville Compost Project.

In March 2023, the City was awarded the USDA's Community Composting and Food Waste Reduction Grant. This competitive grant has allowed the Project to expand by: adding additional public food scraps drop-off locations; hosting backyard-composting workshops; and implementing composting infrastructure at a minimum of seven community gardens.

The benefits of composting food scraps are plentiful. It increases moisture retention in our soils (resulting in less water used for gardening), adds beneficial nutrients to the food grown in the soil, and diverts food scraps from the landfill where they create harmful methane gases that contribute to climate change.

Since February of 2022, the City has composted 17,295 pounds of food scraps!

Attending a Backyard Composting Workshop, could get you a free backyard compost tumbler and countertop food scrap collection bin.

Please check out Waste and Resources Management's [compost page](#) to learn about the four food scrap drop-off locations, upcoming workshops, what you can and cannot drop off, and what happens with the compost that is created from your scraps.

## **10. Fleshy Fruits for Feathered Friends**

Charles Kwit, Tree Board member and Associate Professor in the University of Tennessee's School of Natural Resources and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, offers up some helpful information about what trees to plant if you want to attract birds to your yard.

Of all the benefits trees provide, one that is extremely important is food for wildlife. More specifically, many of our native trees (and vines that grow on them) produce fleshy fruits, which can be a critical part of many songbirds' diets.

Red mulberries, serviceberries, and black cherries are ripe and ready in the summer, and these are consumed by birds of all ages, from nestlings to fledglings to adults. When fall arrives, nature ups its game: flowering dogwoods, mountain hollies, sassafras, black gums and sumacs are just a few of our native trees whose fleshy fruits are consumed by all kinds of birds, especially migratory birds during their southerly journeys.

Also available at this time are fruits of all kinds of native vines, including grapes, briars, Virginia creeper, and even the dreaded poison ivy; and yes indeed, birds do eat poison ivy fruits, with no adverse effects to them! As winter sets in, other trees such as red cedar, American holly, and even hackberry can become magnets of fruit foraging activity, sometimes with large flocks of birds "dining and dashing."

Many of the birds that consume fleshy fruits do the trees a favor by dispersing the seeds intact: a win-win for everyone involved.

If you have any questions or comments please send them to [treeboard@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:treeboard@knoxvilletn.gov).

## **11. 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.*