



**The Neighborly Notice** – Vol. 16, No. 30 – Tuesday, August 22, 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. Early Voting Ends Thursday**

Your final chance to vote early for the 2023 City Primary Election is this Thursday, Aug. 24.

The final day to [request an absentee ballot](#) is today, and Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Offices on the ballot:

- City Mayor
- City Council at-Large, Seat A
- City Council at-Large, Seat B
- City Council at-Large, Seat C
- City Council, District 5 (Only residents of District 5 will vote on this, and incumbent Councilman Charlie Thomas is unopposed)
- Municipal Judge

For more information about the election, please visit [www.KnoxVotes.org](http://www.KnoxVotes.org).

Your voice matters. Go vote!

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

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment is accepting applications for the [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC) until this **Friday, Aug. 25, at 4:30 p.m.**

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). Call the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment at 865-215-3232 if you would like more information about the appointments.

### **3. Deadline to Sign Up For Leadership Training Classes Approaches**

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.

If you are interested, send the following information to Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) by Friday, Sept. 1, at 4:30 p.m.

- Name
- Neighborhood
- Address
- Years living in your neighborhood
- What you hope to gain by participating

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 into the training, there will only be one Micro Grant awarded per neighborhood.

Space is limited. Priority will be given to Knoxville residents, those who are new or newish to organizing, or those struggling to organize a neighborhood.

### **4. It's Wiffleball Time in Tennessee**

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) is excited to announce that the Sixth Annual Neighborhood Wiffleball Tournament will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30, beginning at 8 a.m. at Caswell Park, 570 Winona St.

If your neighborhood is interested in participating this year, please reach out to Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov). We already have several teams signed up. The deadline to register is Friday, Sept. 15.

We can't wait to see you on the field for some friendly neighborhood competition!

Former tournament winners are:

2022 – **Westwood Homeowners Association**

2021 – **Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association**

2019 – **Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association**

2018 – **Westwood Homeowners Association**

2017 – **Westwood Homeowners Association**

## **5. Neighborhood Advisory Council Visits WestRock**

Members of the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) and Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE) staff visited the [WestRock](#) recycling facility earlier this month to learn more about recycling in the city.

The City of Knoxville's recycling program started in the 1980s with the introduction of its first Recycling Drop-off Centers. The curbside, or "single-stream," recycling program began in in 2011. Today, 30,000 Knoxville households (just over 50 percent!) are signed up for this free and convenient service.

Knoxville households that recycle save space in our landfill, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, create jobs, and contribute to the regional economy.

How does recycling work? The items collected in your curbside cart are delivered to materials-recovery facility WestRock. Here, workers assisted by high-tech equipment remove contaminants and sort recyclables into various materials. Paper, cardboard, metals, and plastics are then baled and sold to regional manufacturers in Knoxville, Alcoa, North Georgia, and Atlanta, who in turn use them to make new products.

Recycling remains viable in our community when everyone does their part to minimize detrimental contamination. Some non-recyclable items can contaminate the purity and thus the value and salability of other materials, can damage equipment, and pose health and safety risks for workers.

Remember this rule of thumb: when in doubt, throw it out! If you're not sure about an item, double check the [list of materials](#) accepted in the curbside recycling carts and at the recycling drop-off centers. Use the ["What Goes Where" look-up tool](#) to see if a particular item is accepted before you "wish-cycle" it. Although it seems counterintuitive, it is always best to throw an item in the trash unless you are certain it is recyclable.

Two major contaminants are plastic bags and garden hoses.

If your neighborhood group would like to like to schedule a tour of the WestRock facility to learn more about what happens to the items being recycled, you can contact Tyler Adams at [tyler.adams@westrock.com](mailto:tyler.adams@westrock.com) or 865-522-6129.

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

## **6. KPD Hosts East District Commander Forum**

The Knoxville Police Department will host the East District Commander Forum on Thursday, Aug. 31, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, 5364 N Broadway.

The East District is anything East of Interstate 275 not including downtown and South Knoxville, which is in the Central District.

East District Commander Nevin Long and his support staff will be there to discuss ongoing crime trends in the district, offer crime prevention tips, answer questions and address neighbors' concerns. KPD would like to have representation from each neighborhood organization and community group in order to help streamline communication about what is happening within the community.

The goal of the commander forums being held in each district is to connect neighbors with KPD officers and discuss crime, ongoing issues and resolutions.

RSVP and invite neighbors using the Facebook event page: <https://fb.me/e/JDadu54l>

## **7. KEMA Offers Community Emergency Response Team Training**

Knoxville-Knox County 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 the following:

- 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](#).

### **8. Trees Knoxville Hosts Tree Walk This Thursday**

The August Tree Walk, hosted by Trees Knoxville, is Thursday, Aug. 24, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Ashley Nicole Dream Playground in Caswell Park, 570 Winona St. The group will meet in the parking lot.

Urban Forester Kasey Krouse will lead a walk through the **Parkridge Neighborhood** to explore the past 10 years of management practices in the City of Knoxville's Urban Forestry Program, and how that work and its results are informing the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan.

All residents are welcome to join!

### **9. Volunteers Needed for Historic Cemetery Clean-up**

Volunteers are needed for the Good Citizens Cemetery Clean-up Day taking place Saturday, Sept. 9, 8-11 a.m. at 1027 Fuller Ave.

Participants will help make the cemetery more accessible, clear invasive species and groundcover for walkability and grass growth, and help lay soil to alleviate sunken ground spots to even the grade.

This event is hosted by Trees Knoxville. [Sign up](#) to volunteer by visiting [www.treesknoxville.org/events](http://www.treesknoxville.org/events).

### **10. Health Department Offers Free Diabetes Management Classes**

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is offering three free diabetes-management classes this fall.

Different topics, including information about diagnosis, health eating, physical activity, medication, and day-to-day management will be discussed each week.

The classes will be held Thursdays, Sept. 7, 14 and 21, 6-7 p.m. in the KCHD Community Room, 140 Dameron Ave:

For more information and to sign-up, please call 865-215-5170.

### **11. Trees Make Neighborhoods a Better Place**

With the recent occurrence of damaging storms, you may be thinking more about the hazards of trees.

The destruction caused by falling trees or broke limbs is visible and costly, so it can be easy to lose sight of trees' benefits, which are still overwhelmingly positive. Did you know?

- Street trees have been shown to reduce vehicular speeding, making neighborhoods safer for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Temperatures in neighborhoods with more trees are significantly lower than in those with less, providing comfort, protection from heat-related ailments, and lower utility bills
- Neighborhoods with greater tree canopy cover have overall higher property values.

With proper care and maintenance by reputable licensed and bonded tree care professionals, homeowners and neighborhoods can maintain a healthy tree canopy without sacrificing safety.

Tip: When looking to purchasing a property that has large trees, it is a good idea to have a certified arborist do a tree inspection as part of a home inspection. Current homeowners should also look after their trees regularly, having tree care (like pruning dead branches) performed regularly. The benefits far outweigh the risks, and healthy trees make for healthy people and healthy neighborhoods.

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

**[12. 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 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.

### **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.*