



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 16, No. 43 – Tuesday, December 5, 2023

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Newsletter (PDF version): <https://bit.ly/NeighborlyNotice-2023-12-05>

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1. What is your Neighborhood Doing for the Holidays?

What is your neighborhood doing for the holidays?

Some neighborhoods have holiday gatherings, progressive porch events, a decoration contests, a tree lighting, a cookie swap, a poinsettia fundraiser, etc. If your neighborhood is doing something special, we would love to know!

Please contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov to let us know your plans. We would be glad to help get the word out about what you are doing to, either increase participation (if it is open to the public) or to give other groups ideas. We look forward to hearing what everyone is doing this year.

2. Five Points Up Coalition Hosts 10th Annual Winter Wonderland

Five Points Up Coalition, in partnership with the Knox County Health Department, will host its 10th annual Winter Wonderland on Thursday, Dec. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Phillis Wheatley YWCA, 124 Cruze St.

There will be entertainment, food, and booths. There will also be a tree-decorating contest at Walter Hardy Park. Businesses, organizations, and groups are encouraged to participate in the tree decorating. You simply can pick a tree and decorate it. Be sure to put a sign on it to show what group you are. To submit your tree to the contest, call 865-604-0757 and provide your information. Winners will be announced at the event.

[Five Points Up](#) is a community-led group, in partnership with the Knox County Health Department, and is supported by the City of Knoxville, East Knox Lions Club, and other community partners. The group's mission is to reduce health inequities in the Five Points neighborhood through community-building events and projects.

The event is free of charge and open to the public.

3. Officer Liaison of the Year Nominations – Deadline Extended!

Nominations for the Officer Liaison of the Year Award will now be accepted through Friday, Dec. 15, at 4:30 p.m.

Has your officer liaison helped you with an issue, gotten back to you on questions you have had, been there to help suggest solutions to problems? If so, those would be great reasons to nominate them for the Officer Liaison of the Year.

Nominate your neighborhood's Officer Liaison or Community Partnership Officer for going above and beyond expectations by completing this quick nomination form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OLOYA-2023>

If you would like a hard copy of the nomination form mailed to you, please contact Shannett Riley at 865-215-3232 or sriley@knoxvilletn.gov.

4. What Does Planning Do and Why is it Important?

Planning, as carried out by entities such as the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission, is the process that determines the way land is utilized, protected, and designed. This process is done by states, counties, cities, and towns at all scales, including rural, urban and suburban.

Planning takes into account the positive and negative impacts of land-use changes on individual people, infrastructure, the environment, and more. Effective planning can ensure that places grow in a way that preserves or improves quality of life for people and the environment. The [Knoxville-Knox County Planning](#) was established in 1956 as the agency responsible for comprehensive county-wide planning and administration of land-use subdivision regulation.

According to the [Tennessee Department of Health](#), Planning departments in Tennessee consider a wide variety of topics affecting communities such as:

- appropriate land use and zoning (what can be built and where)
- community plans (to guide the community's growth over time)
- transportation (how people get around and connect to jobs and services)
- complete streets (streets that allow for multiple types of users, including pedestrians, cyclists, cars and public transit)
- historic preservation (what significant buildings or places should be preserved),
- neighborhoods and subdivisions (making rules to guide how they are built and change over time)
- resilience (safety and protection against natural disasters) and
- sustainable development (development that is good for people and the environment in the long-term).

Planning is important because it can be a determining factor of both community and individual health. How planning at any level is carried out influences health through opportunities for physical activity and recreation; transportation options and connectivity to jobs and services; quality of schools, air, and water; and housing affordability.

Zoning is one of the primary tasks assigned to the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission and is a land-use planning tool that determines what can go where. Zoning can be used to encourage, discourage, or prohibit certain types of land use. Effective zoning policies can make healthy choices easier, decrease health inequities, and improve community connectivity.

It can be beneficial to keep up with what Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission has on its agenda to see what may affect your neighborhoods. There are planning staff who are professional planners who make recommendations to the planning commission, and there are planning commissioners who are volunteers appointed by the City of Knoxville and Knox County mayors. These commissioners vote for or against zoning changes. Planning Commission meets every second Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the City County Building's Main Assembly Room.

For more information about the Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission, access the Planning Commission website [here](#). For more information regarding zoning here in Knoxville, you can access the City of Knoxville Zoning Code User's Manual [here](#).

5. BBB and POH Meet This Week

The Better Building Board (BBB) will meet this Thursday, Dec. 7, at 3:30 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, located at 400 Main St.

Properties on the BBB agenda are:

- 0 Boone St. (082HD029)

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- 2349 East Fifth Ave.
- 2350 Woodbine Ave.

A Public Officer Hearing will take place this Friday, Dec. 8, at 9:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, located at 400 Main St.

Properties on the POH agenda are:

- 3910 Carnation Dr., including accessory structure
- 4800 Central Avenue Pike – commercial
- 2111 Dodson Ave., including accessory structure
- 1620 Lenland Ave., including accessory structures

If you would like to learn more about the BBB or the POH, please visit the City's [website](#).

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

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 or 865-215-3100. 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.

6. Tour de Lights with Bike Walk Knoxville

[Tour de Lights](#) is a free, family-friendly holiday bike ride presented by Visit Knoxville and Bike Walk Knoxville. This year's event will be on Saturday, Dec. 9. It will start and end at Mary Costa Plaza, 500 Howard Baker Jr. Ave.

Festivities will be from 3:30-8 p.m., with the Tour de Lights bike ride being at 5:30 p.m. Before and after the bike ride, there will be a holiday market and expo, food vendors, and a chance for photos with Santa.

If you and your group plan on biking, please register [here](#). Participants are encouraged to decorate their bikes in the Christmas spirit!

7. Trees Knoxville Season-Opening Tree Planting

Calling all volunteers! Trees Knoxville will hold their Season Opener Tree Planting Event on Saturday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Caswell Park, 570 Winona St. Join Trees Knoxville as they kick off the season and plants some trees.

To sign up to volunteer or learn more about Trees Knoxville, visit their [website](#).

8. Safety City Celebrates Christmas

During "A Safety City Christmas," families are invited to bring their own bicycles, push scooters, battery-operated cars, doll buggies and more to see the display of Christmas lights around the miniature city.

[Safety City](#) is a project of the Knoxville Police Department and the objective of it is to provide an early educational program for elementary school children (kindergarten-fourth grades) that will teach children about vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and fire safety.

It will be open from 4-8 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Dec. 5
- Wednesday, Dec. 6
- Thursday, Dec. 7
- Tuesday, Dec. 12
- Wednesday, Dec. 13
- Thursday, Dec. 14

These dates are subject to change due to weather and other conditions. There may also be a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

All are welcome to join in the holiday festivities.

9. Happy First Day of Hanukkah

The first day of Hanukkah is Thursday, Dec. 7. The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment wishes a Happy Hanukkah to all those who celebrate.

10. 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.*