

Workshop Descriptions



Saturday, March 11, 2017
Knoxville Convention Center

Instructions

- Select one workshop that you wish to attend in the 9:30 a.m. break-out session A (starting on this page).
- Select one workshop in the 11 a.m. break-out session B (starting on Page 5).
- Then register for the conference. If you are not already on the EventBrite registration page, [find the page here](#).
- You must register to get a lunch ticket, a name tag and a conference notebook.
- If you have no Internet access, call 215-2113 to receive a hard copy of the registration form via postal mail.
- Note that youth workshops A-1 and B-1 are designed for high school and middle school students.

A – Break-Out Session #1 (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Choose ONE of the following workshops offered during this hour.

A-1: Youth Workshop: How Local Government Works (9:30-10:30)

- Meet City Mayor Madeline Rogero and County Major Tim Burchett as they explain their roles serving the citizens of Knoxville and Knox County.
- Learn about the three branches of government in the city and county.
- Find out how Knox County Schools and the School Board fit into the picture.
- Be inspired to learn more, get involved, and make a difference in your community.

Mayor Madeline Rogero – City of Knoxville

Mayor Tim Burchett – Knox County

Stephanie Welch – Great Schools Partnership

Moderator: Courtney Durrett – Fountaincrest Neighborhood Association

A-2: Neighborhood Umbrella Groups (9:30-10:30)

What can two or more neighborhood organizations accomplish by working together?

- Hear from Bearden Council, the Broadway Corridor Task Force, and the South Knoxville Neighborhood & Business Coalition (SKNBC) — three different umbrella groups formed by neighborhood associations to address issues and concerns in their parts of town.
- Learn about the benefits and challenges of such coalitions — and how they involve the business community.
- Brainstorm informal ways your neighborhood can work with and communicate with other neighborhoods.
- Join the discussion on whether Knoxville's organized neighborhoods need and can support a city-wide neighborhood coalition.

Ann Strange – South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Coalition

Jenny Wright – Broadway Corridor Task Force

Sandy Gillespie – Bearden Council

Moderator: Ronnie Collins – Alice Bell Spring Hill Neighborhood Association

A-3: How to Save on Your Utility Bill (9:30-10:30)

- Learn about KUB's new Smart Meters.
- Discover low-cost ways to reduce utility costs in your home.
- Is now the time to reconsider solar energy?

Erin Gill – City of Knoxville, Office of Sustainability

Jennifer Alldredge – Alliance to Save Energy

Moderator: Jordan Frye – Great Schools Partnership

A-4: Creative Placemaking (9:30-10:30)

- What is placemaking, and how can it be used in your neighborhood?
- Find out how one neighborhood used the “lighter, quicker, cheaper” approach.
- Learn the steps for creating a mural in your neighborhood.
- Engage with others to brainstorm other neighborhood improvement projects.

Jennifer Reynolds – Timbercrest Neighborhood Association

Liza Zenni – Arts and Culture Alliance

Moderator – Gerry Moll – Historic Fourth & Gill, The Birdhouse Neighborhood Center

A-5: Engaging Neighbors to Build Your Neighborhood Organization (9:30-10:30)

- Find out how an historic neighborhood revived its neighborhood organization and reengaged with neighbors in expanded boundaries.
- Understand the benefits of a multi-faceted outreach strategy, using everything in the toolbox: social media, meetings, fun events, newsletters, phone calls, door-to-door surveys, etc.
- Brainstorm creative ways to engage neighbors — including young people and families with children — and get them involved.

Kelley DeLuca – Lindbergh Forest Neighborhood Association

Nancy Campbell – Island Home Park Neighborhood Association

Moderator: Bill Murrah – Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization

A-6: Youth Recreation Opportunities for your Community (9:30-10:30)

- Discover city recreation programs that are available to youth in your neighborhood.
- Learn about the Save Our Sons Initiative and plans for the Change Center.
- Find out ways your organization can partner with nonprofit youth programs, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, to engage youth in your neighborhood.

Angie Davidson – City of Knoxville, Parks and Recreation Department

Anthony Ingram – Boy Scouts of America, Great Smoky Mountain Council

Moderator: Avice Reid – City of Knoxville, Save Our Sons Program

A-7: HOA Legal Issues (9:30-10:30)

- A formal Home Owners Association (HOA) is a mandatory dues and membership organization for the maintenance of commonly owned real estate and for the regulation (through covenants and deed restrictions) of privately owned property within a neighborhood.
- This workshop will focus on state laws, court rulings and pending litigation that have impacted or may impact how HOA's operate.

Wayne A. Kline, Attorney at Law, Hodges Doughty & Carson

A-8: Pets, Wildlife & Nuisance Animals (9:30-10:30)

- Barking dogs, chained dogs, dogs running loose, exotic pets: Learn what the City can and cannot regulate when it comes to animals and pets.
- Hear about the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, hunting laws, and nuisance wildlife, as well as wildlife damage and how to control it.
- Why do we see so many "critters" in the City? What can be done about coyotes?
- Get an overview of pet adoption, spay/neuter surgery, dog training, and other services of the Humane Society.

Amy Buttry – Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley

Clint Smith – Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Rhonda Bender – Animal Control Unit, Knoxville Police Department

Moderator: Gina Pittenger – Volunteer, Citizen's Police Academy

A-9: How to Run for Knoxville City Council (9:30-10:30)

This is an election year for five open seats on Knoxville City Council. Qualifying petitions are not due until May 18. This workshop will be useful for anyone wishing to get involved in the election and decision-making process.

- Understand the legal requirements to qualify as a candidate and run a political campaign within the law.
- Hear from a City Council member with years of public service and campaign experience.
- Pick up valuable campaign tips from a seasoned campaign manager.
- Learn how to get involved in campaigns, issues and legislative initiatives that affect your neighborhood.

Finbarr Saunders – Member, City Council, At-Large Seat C

Cassandra McGee Stuart – Knox County Election Commission

Gary Drinnen – Campaign Consultant, Custom Development Solutions, Inc.
Moderator: Rynn Dupes, League of Women Voters of Knoxville and Knox County

A-10: Understanding the City Budget (9:30-10:30)

Want more sidewalks? More speed enforcement? More parks? Updated civic facilities? Faster bus service? To be an effective advocate for your particular interests, it is helpful to understand all of the competing needs represented in the City of Knoxville's \$300 million budget. In this workshop, you will learn:

- Where the money comes from and where it goes.
- How the reduction in the Hall Income Tax is impacting budget planning.
- How very small changes in certain costs can lead to very large changes in line items.
- Details about the annual budget process that gets underway this spring.

Jim York – Finance Director, City of Knoxville

Moderator: Dennis Owen, City Pension Board and Kingston Pike/Sequoyah Hills Assn.

A-11: Zoning and Why You Should Care (9:30-10:30)

- What is this thing called “zoning” and how does it work?
- Why is zoning critical to the health and future of neighborhoods?
- What is the role of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)?
- Get the skinny on the upcoming overhaul of the city's zoning code — and why neighborhoods should pay very close attention.

Gerald Green – Executive Director, MPC

Moderator – Lynn Redmon – Norwood Homeowners Association

B – Break-Out Session #2 (11 a.m. – 12 Noon)

Choose ONE of the following workshops offered during this hour.

B-1: Youth Workshop: Getting Things Done in Your Community (11:00-Noon)

- Learn the basics of how to ask questions and advocate for change in your neighborhood.
- Work with a group of other teens to choose a sample problem or opportunity in your neighborhood and drive it to a solution or resolution.
- Present your group's findings, hear from other groups, and learn how to interact with local government to get things done.

City Staff Members

Moderator: Sarah Bounce – Knox County Health Department

B-2: Communication Strategies for Your Neighborhood (11:00-Noon)

- Learn how one neighborhood organization uses newsletters, flyers, Facebook and door-to-door visitation to communicate with residents and advance the neighborhood agenda.
- Understand why neighborhood groups should not rely on just one form of communication.

- Find out why an emerging neighborhood leader has found door-to-door visitation to be critical to the start of an effective community organization in her neighborhood.
- Hear the pros and cons of social media versus other forms of communication.
- Learn how a set of discussion guidelines can help you maintain a civil discussion on your Facebook page or email group list.

Janice Tocher – South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

Jenny Arthur – Old Sevier Community Group

LaShea Brabson – Wilder Street Community

Moderator: Don Loy – Tatewood Neighborhood Watch

B-3: When A Neighbor Needs Help (11:00-Noon)

Active members of neighborhood organizations often learn about a neighbor who is going through hard times, but they may feel powerless to lend a hand.

- Discover the full range of social services available to individuals and families in need.
- Hear about assistance with KUB bills, housing and other commonly needed programs.
- Learn how dialing 211 can lead to a wide array of social services.

Amy Broyles – North Knoxville

Cecilia Waters – Knoxville Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC)

Russ Jensen – City of Knoxville, 211-311

Moderator: Fran Nichols, Moss Creek Villas Homeowners Association

B-4: Fight the Blight (11:00-Noon)

- Learn about the City's programs to reduce blight.
- Neighborhood leaders explain blight from their perspective.
- Discuss creative ways to limit blighting influences.
- Brainstorm new ideas to reduce blight.

Cheri Hollifield – City of Knoxville, Neighborhood Codes Enforcement

Emma Ellis-Cosigua – Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association

Jay Price – Marble City Neighborhood Organization

Moderator: Danny Gray, South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

B-5: Diversity Matters: Finding Common Ground (11:00-Noon)

- Understand the challenges faced by those in our society who are wrongly stereotyped and whose potential contributions (to the nation or to a neighborhood) are therefore never realized.
- Learn strategies for getting to know our neighbors and finding common ground among us all.
- Get some tips on how we as neighbors can respect and understand our differences, learn from them, and benefit from them.
- This workshop will address these universal issues from the perspective of three individuals who belong to just three of the groups who are often stereotyped or misunderstood --- Hispanics, Muslims, and people with disabilities.

Claudia Caballero – Centro Hispano of East Tennessee
Maha Ayesh – Civil Rights Attorney, Jennifer Morton Law Firm, Knoxville
Stephanie Cook – City of Knoxville, Office of Disabilities
Moderator: Fr. Ragan Schriver – U.T. College of Social Work

B-6: How to Get Involved in Your Local Schools (11:00-Noon)

- What is a Community School, and how can a neighborhood organization become involved?
- Learn how you can volunteer in any Knox County public school even if you do not have children in the school.
- Hear from an involved neighbor who helped connect the neighborhood and the school.

Andrew Brown – Principal, South Doyle Middle School
Cindy Hood – Resident, Norwood Neighborhood
Liz Thacker – Great Schools Partnership
Moderator: Terrell Patrick – Cold Springs Neighborhood Watch

B-7: Homelessness in Knoxville (11:00-Noon)

- Learn about Knoxville’s Plan to Address Homelessness, the Mayor’s Roundtable on Homelessness, and the services available to people who have no place to live.
- Hear about the mental health crisis, lack of affordable housing, and other factors that cause and perpetuate homelessness.
- Meet a formerly homeless person who takes pride in his new neighborhood.
- Learn how one nonprofit, faced with early opposition, restored a deteriorated historic school building to house formerly homeless veterans and turn a blighted liability into a neighborhood asset.
- Get some advice on how to respond appropriately and compassionately to the presence of homeless people in your neighborhood.

Cal Gill, Jr. – Resident, Flenniken Landing
Chris Smith – Knoxville Leadership Foundation
Moderator: Michael Dunthorn – City of Knoxville, Office on Homelessness

B-8: Fighting Crime in Your Neighborhood

- Learn about crime trends in Knoxville today, and how the Knoxville Police Department is organized to address criminal activity.
- Find out how you as a city resident can get involved to assist law enforcement and reduce crime in your neighborhood.
- Understand the state Nuisance Law that can be used to shut down criminal enterprises in homes or businesses.
- Hear from an attorney about his experience prosecuting 47 nuisance injunctions since July 2010.
- Learn the difference between civil & criminal matters.
- Get details on the Citizens Police Academy and the Attorney General’s new Citizens Academy.

David Rausch – City of Knoxville, Chief of Police

Sean McDermott – Assistant District Attorney, Office of District Attorney General
Moderator: Ann White – Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association

B-9: Neighborhood Walkability (11:00-Noon)

- Get an overview of the Engineering Department in general and its sidewalk construction program in particular.
- Hear about the City’s 20-year plan for connecting and extending greenways and options for new greenways.
- Learn about the “Safe Routes to Schools” program.

Jim Hagerman – City of Knoxville, Director of Engineering

Tim Hester – City of Knoxville, Greenways Coordinator

Moderator: Ellen Zavisca – Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

B-10: Funding Resources for Neighborhood Groups (11:00-Noon)

- Get tips on approaching funders and applying for grants.
- Receive a list of potential funding sources for neighborhood groups.
- Learn how Vestal Community Organization is implementing a neighborhood improvement project on a city-owned parcel using grants from multiple sources, donations of professional expertise and labor, discounted materials, and volunteer labor from neighborhood residents.
- When Historic Holston Hills Community Club needed more funds for a park project, it turned to its neighbors with a unique proposal and raised more than \$1,000 in small donations. Find out how they did it.
- Participate in a brainstorming session to generate ideas for raising money.

Gene Burr – Local Architect and advisor to Vestal Community Organization

Millie Ward – Historic Holston Hills Community Club

Moderator: Mary Linda Schwarzbart – Business and Grants Consultant

B-11: Creative Event Making (11:00-Noon)

Neighborhood meetings are one thing. But neighborhood organizations often work on many other events that also require careful planning, adequate volunteer support, and a clear purpose.

- Benefit from the large-event experience of the North Hills Garden Club and the logistics planning that goes into its very successful Tour of Homes.
- From a holiday tree lighting in Timbercrest to a monthly concert series in Edgewood Park, learn how to plan and execute small to mid-sized events to attract and involve neighbors and raise your neighborhood’s profile in the city.
- Teach and learn as you brainstorm event ideas for building a sense of community in your neighborhood.

Julie Lopez – Timbercrest Neighborhood Association

Michael Duerr & Julie Taylor – Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association

Sally Wilcox – North Hills Garden Club

Moderator: Kaye Bultemeier – RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association