

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 11, No. 24 – Tuesday, July 24, 2018

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Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.

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1. Lonsdale Homecoming Celebrates Local Diversity

The 32nd Annual Lonsdale Homecoming will be held Friday, Aug. 3 through Sunday, Aug. 5, with an international theme to celebrate Lonsdale's local diversity.

In recent years, Lonsdale community has become more and more diverse. There are African Americans, Caucasians, Guatemalans, Mexicans, Burundians, and much more. With each group comes a different culture of food, music, dance, language, etc. Lonsdale Homecoming committee wants to celebrate this abundant culture.

This year the event will be held at Lonsdale Park, 2705 Stonewall St, and here are the times:

*Friday, Aug. 3, 6 to 10 p.m., International night with children's activities and vendors

*Saturday, Aug. 4, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Homecoming Parade, Back-to-School Bash, Vendors, and live music

*Sunday, Aug. 5, 2 p.m., Old Timer's Dinner, Community Worship Service, and Memorial Service

2. Two Neighborhoods Celebrate NNO

Wesley Neighbors Community Association and **View Park Neighborhood Watch** are keeping things traditional, celebrating National Night Out in Aug.

National Night Out is a community event centered on both bringing neighborhood watch groups together and promoting police-community partnerships. Whether a community pot-luck, a fair, a game night, or even just a meeting, neighborhood organizations come together to learn about resources, stay informed, and remain involved and motivated in their community.

While the National Day to celebrate is the first Tuesday in Aug., some cities, like Knoxville, choose to celebrate on the first Tuesday in Oct. in an effort to beat the heat.

While either date is acceptable, it is important for your neighborhood to notify Office of Neighborhoods and the Knoxville Police Department (KPD) so they may participate in the event.

If you plan to celebrate in Aug., please email Eden at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov and Officer John Morgan at jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov the following information:

- *Your neighborhood's name
- *Contact person
- *Phone number
- *Email
- *Your event (i.e. chili cook-off, ice cream social, etc.)
- *Times
- *Location

If you plan to celebrate in Oct., we will request that information later in the year.

If you would like to learn more about National Night out, see their [website](#) for facts and history.

3. Become a Healthier TN Neighborhood!

The Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness is currently seeking new neighborhoods to participate in the Healthier TN Neighborhoods program.

The Foundation's primary initiative, [Healthier Tennessee](#), strives to increase the number of Tennesseans who are physically active, promote eating a healthy diet, and reduce the number of people who use tobacco. Healthier TN works with neighborhoods in Knoxville to develop health and wellness programs in their respective communities to ultimately become designated a "Healthier Tennessee Neighborhood".

Interested neighborhood representatives or stakeholders should contact Alicia Price, the Knoxville Neighborhood Director for Healthier Tennessee, at alicia@healthiertn.org or 615-610-1880 ext. 790.

4. Fight the Blight! – Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Saturday, July 21, neighbors from Cumberland Estates Neighborhood Organization came out at 7 a.m. to help an elderly neighbor in need. In just three hours, eight neighborhood and community volunteers turned a forest into a backyard!

A senior neighbor called the Community Development department, worried that her neighbors might complain about her backyard. The large yard, which used to hold a beautiful fence and swimming pool, had become a forest swamp, overgrown with weeds, jaegers, and small trees. She was overjoyed to find the very neighbors she thought would call her in, instead, jumped to her aid.

Yielding weed whackers, hedge trimmers, heavy duty gloves, chain saws, and even a machete, neighborhood volunteers transformed a blighted property back into a beautiful backyard.

A pilot project, Cumberland Estates showed how easy, and fun, it is to tackle blight in your own community while also helping a neighbor in need.

We all have blighted properties in our area. While some are vacant houses, absent landlords, and other more difficult situations; others are seniors in need of a little help. A handful of neighbors can knock out an ominous yard in just a few hours, beautifying the neighborhood and relieving a senior neighbor.

If you would like to talk more about getting a project going in your neighborhood, please contact Eden at (865) 215-2113 or eslater@knoxvilletn.gov.

Why not work together to make our neighborhoods better for all!

5. Parkridge Neighborhood Meets CMC

The City of Knoxville will host a meeting on Monday, July 30, from 6-8 p.m. to introduce the [Community Mediation Center](#) (CMC) to Parkridge Neighbors.

At this meeting, CMC will explain a process that they believe could help Parkridge neighbors find common ground around the subject of historic preservation. This meeting will be an orientation to the process; or an explanation of what people might expect if they want to go through the process.

People wishing to participate in the process at a later date, can sign up at the end of this meeting. Dates will be chosen to accommodate those who wish to attend.

If you wish to participate in the process, but are not able to attend the orientation, contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

6. Join the Wiffle Ball Fun!

So far, **Island Home Park Neighborhood Association**, **Timbercrest Neighborhood Association**, **West Hills Community Association**, and **Westwood Homeowners Association** have registered to play in the second annual Wiffle Ball Tournament scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 25, at Victor Ashe Park, 4901 Bradshaw Road.

Each neighborhood is invited to form a team of eight or more people (12 is

recommended). If you do not have enough members in your neighborhood, you may add a few friends from outside the neighborhood. The bulk of the team, however, should be neighborhood residents.

The tournament is co-ed, ages 12 and up, and free to play. Team colors are chosen on a first-come first served basis. Once registration closes, playing times will be set.

To register a team, contact Mike Rogers at mrog91@gmail.com or 865-201-0202. Include your name, neighborhood, phone number, and your first and second choices for a team color. Teams must register by Friday, Aug. 10.

Check-In will begin at 8 a.m. with the first games beginning at 9 a.m.

The idea for this tournament came from one individual --- Jennifer Reynolds, a member of both the Timbercrest Neighborhood Association and the Neighborhood Advisory Council. Thanks to Jennifer for her creativity and willingness to give her idea a try!

7. Neighbor 2 Neighbor Resource Fair This Thursday

All are welcome to attend the Office of Neighborhoods' Neighbor 2 Neighbor Resource Fair this Thursday, July 26 from 5-8 p.m. at the Cal Johnson Recreation Center (CJRC), 507 Hall of Fame Dr.

The fair will host over 20 booths from across Knoxville and use two separate rooms for community huddles. Community huddles are conversations with neighbors that will focus on health, family, and transportation and especially the intersections of these topics. Those interested in the huddle topics are encouraged to attend and network with like-minded individuals.

Parking is available at CJRC and the Civic Coliseum Parking Garage A. However, we encourage those without mobility issues to park at the Civic Coliseum to ensure that those with mobility issues can park at CJRC. Be sure to let the attendant in the Civic Coliseum Parking Garage know that you are here for the fair.

Check out our Facebook for updates and more! For more, contact Hannah Freeman at 865-215-3456 or hfreeman@knoxvilletn.gov.

8. Testify on Blighted Properties at Meeting This Week

Fifteen properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 26, in the Large Assembly Room.

The Public Officer ---David Brace, deputy director to the Mayor---will hear testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. Testimony can also be made by the property owners, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders, such as lien holders.

The Public Officer then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Failure by the owner to cure the problem may result in the boarding or demolition of a structure, or the cleanup of a dirty or overgrown lot, with costs billed to the owner.

A property owner may appeal the Public Officer's decision to the Better Building Board, (BBB) and, ultimately, to Chancery Court. The BBB, which normally meets the fourth Thursday of the month, is not meeting this month.

The properties to be heard for repair/demolition orders are: 1231 Baker Ave. including accessory structure, 4309 Bruhin Rd. including accessory structure, 148 Hawthorne Ave. including accessory structure, 210 Hawthorne Ave. including accessory structure, 521 Hickory Dr. including accessory structures, 4907 Inskip Rd. including accessory structures, 2539 Jefferson Ave., 2545 Jefferson Ave., 2901 Lay Ave., 3434 Linden Ave., 823 West Oak Hill Ave. including accessory structures, 4115 Porter Ave., 1106 Rider Ave. including accessory structure, 3833 Speedway Cir. (accessory structure only), and 5807 East Sunset Rd.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, then you or a representative of your organization may wish to attend the meeting to submit testimony about the impact of the property on the neighborhood.

The full July 26 agenda, with details on each property, can be found on the [website](#).

9. Home Uplift Is Launched

On July 18th, the City of Knoxville's Office of Sustainability, in partnership with TVA, CAC, and KUB, launched a new pilot program called Home Uplift.

Funded by TVA, Home Uplift will support weatherization in key cities across the Tennessee Valley with the intent to identify and quantify the non-energy benefits of energy efficiency retrofits. Home Uplift directly aligns with our Smarter Cities objective to seek new sources of funding to support energy improvements for income-limited households.

Over the last nine months, the Knoxville Smarter Cities Partnership made several steps to improve home comfort, quality, and affordability through energy efficiency. A few highlights include:

*KUB's Round It Up funded the weatherization of nearly 200 homes

**Savings in the House* educational workshop provided free energy education

*KEEM helped Knoxville achieve international recognition as one of [25 international finalists for the 2017 C40 Cities Awards](#)

*Local partnerships for energy efficiency, including KEEM and Round It Up, were awarded a [2018 Tennessee Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award](#)

*The group's success inspired other cities (including Asheville, [Chattanooga](#), and [Memphis](#)) to pursue similar community-based energy efficiency programs, and they've gladly shared their lessons learned to help other cities tackle energy efficiency challenges in their own communities

10. City Council to Hold Workshop on Zoning Updates

City Council will hold a workshop to discuss the Zoning Code Updates on Thursday, July 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

There will be a discussion of major comments and proposed ordinance standards that involve policy decisions. There will also be a review of the draft zoning map. All are welcome to attend and observe.

For more, visit the City of Knoxville's City Council [website](#).

11. CODI Seeks Input

Assist the City of Knoxville Mayor's [Council on Disability Issues](#) (CODI) to make this city the most friendly for people with disabilities and seniors.

Complete this [survey](#) based on what you believe would make Knoxville the most disability friendly. Even if you don't live in Knoxville, completing this survey will help the city know what facilities are important to folks.

If you would like a hard copy mailed to you for completion, contact Misha Byrne at 215-2433 or mbyrne@knoxvilletn.gov.

12. Books Sandwiched In Welcomes Marshall Stair

With the City of Knoxville working to improve zoning code after 50+ years, Books Sandwiched In invites Marshall Stair to offer a better understanding of how city policies can help and harm the community.

Come join the lunch on Wednesday, July 25, at the East Tennessee History Center auditorium at 12 noon, to discuss *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein.

In *The Color of Law*, Rothstein describes how the American government methodically imposed residential segregation with evident racial zoning; purposefully segregated public housing; subsidies to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions that enforced segregation; and encouragement of violent confrontation to African Americans in white neighborhoods.

"I hope reading and discussing *Color of Law* will give us a better understanding of these harmful policies as we modify our code to increase affordability and diversity," Stair, a civil litigation attorney and City Council member, explains, as seen on the Knox County Public Library's website.

Bring a lunch or pick something up downtown, and join in a discussion to learn from history's mistakes. Drinks are available for fifty cents, and reading the book is optional.

To learn more about Books Sandwiched In, visit the [Knox County Public Library](#). Click [here](#) to reserve a copy of *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein.

13. [Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#) (click link for online calendar)

Call 215-4382 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at scCook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 215-2831.

Other Calendars

Here are other online calendars that cover events outside of the neighborhood realm:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)

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: 5 p.m. Mondays*

*** May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.*

*** See past issues at our Website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*

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