

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 14, No. 13 – Tuesday, March 30, 2021

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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 215-3232. News deadline: 12 noon on Fridays.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods>

1. The Neighborhood Conference Is a Success

The 2021 Neighborhood Conference, held virtually last Saturday, March 27, was a great success!

Although it was different, and we did not see folks in person, there were some very unique qualities to this year's event. Folks were able to watch any workshop they wanted at their convenience (and still have until Saturday, April 3, to watch or watch again); there were some impressive videos, flyers, and information uploaded at all the booths, that each person could download if they wanted; and there were some interesting group chats in the live chat rooms.

We hope everyone who attended enjoyed the content and got something out of it. We thank you for joining us! It was a lot of fun on our end. You will be receiving a survey after the conference closes. We would appreciate your honest input.

Winners of the Neighborhood Achievement Awards were: **Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Association**, **Mechanicsville Community Association**, and **South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association**.

The winner of the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award was Eric McAnly, from the Pond Gap/Bearden area.

Sponsors for The Neighborhood Conference were; Three Rivers Market at the Gold Level, Compass, Mast General Store, and UT Federal Credit Union were Bronze sponsors; and WATE was our media sponsor.

We look forward to seeing you next year in person at The 2022 Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, April 2.

2. City Offices Close This Friday

The City of Knoxville's Offices will be closed this Friday, April 2.

This closure includes the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment.

This closure also includes the 311 Center for Service Innovation, which operates the 311 and 211 phone numbers. Residents needing to make reports to 311 or access 211 services on Friday or over the weekend are encouraged to visit KnoxvilleTN.gov/311 to submit an online request, email 311office@knoxvilletn.gov or go to 211.org

The new My Knoxville app, available for Apple and Android mobile devices, also allows users to report potholes in local roads, graffiti, overgrown lots, and other neighborhood issues.

The holiday weekend doesn't affect waste and recycling collection. Waste Connections will run its normal residential garbage and recycling routes. (Thanksgiving and Christmas are the only days of the year when residential curbside trash and recycling are not picked up as scheduled.) Downtown trash and recyclables also will be collected as usual.

Knoxville Area Transit operates on its regular weekend schedules.

Additional City services affected by the holiday:

The City's five recycling drop-off centers will be open on April 2, but the Goodwill attendant will only be available to receive donations of household goods until 1 p.m.

The City's Solid Waste Facility, 1033 Elm St., will be closed on Friday, April 2, and Saturday, April 3. Due to the holiday, the monthly Free for City Residents Day will be held on Saturday, April 10. This service is for City of Knoxville residents only—please no contractors and no shingles. Customers should be prepared to show proof of City residency.

For additional information about City services, visit www.KnoxvilleTN.gov.

3. Office of Neighborhood Empowerment Hosts Workshop to Engage Neighbors

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment will be hosting a workshop on Thursday, April 8, from 6-8 p.m. via Zoom on different ways to get your neighbors engaged.

Engaging neighbors can be challenging, especially when you can't meet in person. However, there are still many ways to get people more involved! This workshop will present 6-7 different ideas to spark interest in your group.

Here are some of the topics you will learn about: National Wildlife Certification for all those who love the outdoors, Adopt-A-Road through Keep Knoxville Beautiful for all those who have a passion for clean-ups, and how to engage with developers to get the best possible win-win situation as development happens. There will be other speakers, as well talking about different ways to engage folks virtually, how to engage youth, how to help when times are tough, etc.

Hearing one of these speakers could create an idea that could work in your neighborhood. Join us with an open mind and see what creative ideas you come up with for your group.

This workshop was originally intended for The Neighborhood Conference; however, since the event was virtual, we wanted to hold this workshop separately so that it could be more interactive.

Please register for this workshop by emailing Courtney Durrett at cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov to reserve your spot.

4. ONE Plans Mandatory Meetings for Small Grants Program

Has your neighborhood considered a unique project? Do you have the perfect spot for a mural, a space for a community garden, a park that needs updated equipment, a great event idea to connect neighbors, or another idea unique to your neighborhood? Consider applying for the [Neighborhood Small Grants Program](#) (NSGP).

The NSGP offers neighborhood grants from \$500 to \$3,000 (or up to \$4,500 if you partner with another neighborhood organization or non-profit) for projects that engage and encourage neighborhood togetherness and community. To apply for the NSGP, all applicants must be resident-led, resident-controlled, and democratically run neighborhood organizations and attend a mandatory grant workshop.

For a full list of requirements and the NSGP application guidelines, visit the link above. To fulfill the mandatory workshop requirement, please send a representative from your organization to one of the following workshops being held via Zoom:

Saturday, April 24, at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 28, at 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 6, at 6 p.m.

Please register for one of the workshops and direct any questions to Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2113. The link to participate via Zoom will be emailed to those who register.

5. City Presents DRAFT Sidewalk Study

Are you interested in learning where the City is proposing to build new sidewalks in your area? You can download and review the City's [DRAFT Sidewalk Study](#), which is still being finalized and includes a lot of great information.

If you would like a quick summary; you can see the Executive Summary on the City's [website](#).

The purpose of the Sidewalk Study is to provide a clear direction for sidewalk infrastructure in the City of Knoxville, ensuring that residents and visitors are able to walk or use a mobility device in a safe and comfortable manner.

The study includes maps of existing sidewalks along with the proposed sidewalks, along with lists of the priorities in each Council District. If you believe an important street was left off the list, you can still add your comments for later updates.

City staff gathered input from residents and stakeholders at many public meetings held in 2019. That input helped steer the recommendations in this final draft. This draft is now being reviewed by City Council. After their concerns have been addressed, the Final Plan will be published.

If you have questions or comments about the study, please call 311 or contact Jon Livengood at jlivengood@knoxvilletn.gov.

6. Mayor to Address the City on April 23

Mayor Indya Kincannon will present her 2021 State of the City Address on Friday, April 23.

Much like the President's State of the Union Address, the State of the City highlights the Mayor's priorities for the year, anticipated challenges, and a roadmap of future goals, plans, possible impacts, as well as the 2021/2022 budget which will be proposed to City Council.

Additional details will be posted on the [website](#) soon.

7. Design Work To Begin on New East Knoxville Greenway

Design work will begin soon on an exciting new greenway project in East Knoxville. This new 2-mile greenway will connect Harriet Tubman Park and the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum.

The greenway will skirt **Austin Homes** on the western end, run through **Morningside Heights Homeowners Association**, **Eastport-5 Points Neighborhood Watch**, and **East Town Hall**. It will cross through Dr. Walter Hardy Park before coming very close to **Williams Creek Community Association**, and connecting with the Botanical Garden trails to the east.

The project was initially approved in 2019, but the original federal grant funding didn't cover the majority of the cost. Council recently voted unanimously to support the Mayor's request to amend the agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation to increase funding to nearly \$5 million.

Almost \$4 million is being funded federally and administered through TDOT. The City's contribution will be 20 percent of the cost, or \$988,054.

Detailed design work is scheduled to start later this spring, to be followed by public meetings to gather input from residents. Once the path of the greenway is determined, right-of-way acquisition will be the next-to-last step, with construction currently anticipated to begin in spring 2024.

8. Active Shooter Workshop Provided by KPD

Would your neighborhood be interested in a virtual workshop on how to protect yourself in an active shooter situation?

The Knoxville Police Department and the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment would sponsor the workshop, and it would be hosted via Zoom.

As a society, we are hearing more about—and personally experiencing—these kinds of situations. We want residents to feel prepared to protect themselves and their neighbors in the event of an active-shooter situation.

If you would be interested in an active shooter webinar, please contact Officer John Morgan at jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov.

9. KKB Hosts Earth Day Trash Run

[Keep Knoxville Beautiful](#) is hosting a litter pick-up fun run at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, at Albright Grove Brewing Company, 2924 Sutherland Ave.

This pick-up on Sutherland Avenue is for all ages, with participants ages 21 and older receiving a discount on their first beer purchase! There will also be opportunities to win prizes.

Sign-ups will close on Tuesday, April 20, or when 50 volunteers have signed up, so be sure to [get registered](#) early! Pre-registration is required.

All supplies will be provided, but be sure to wear closed-toe shoes and bring water. Also be sure to bring a mask!

10. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar (click link for online calendar)

Call 215-3232 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

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

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](#)

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 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*