



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 17, No. 16 – Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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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.

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

1. Mayor Makes State of the City Address Friday

Mayor Indya Kincannon will unveil the 2024-2025 budget during her State of the City Address at the Tennessee Amphitheater at World's Fair Park, Friday, April 26, at 10:30 a.m.

To attend, please **RSVP by calling the City's 311 line (3-1-1 or 865-215-4311) by Wednesday, April 24.** Light food and beverage refreshments will be provided to guests who pre-register.

Mayor Kincannon will focus her speech on honoring commitments and seeing transformational projects through to completion. The Mayor will highlight the major progress being made in public safety enhancement, creating great public spaces, building communities, creating jobs and economic opportunity, relieving the housing crisis, and reducing Knoxville's carbon footprint.

State of the City guests also will get to see work that has begun at the base of the nearby Sunsphere.

Knoxville Area Transit buses will be shuttling people to the World's Fair Park from the City County Building (Main Ave. pickup) and the Civic Coliseum Garage starting at 9:30 a.m., and they will be returning guests to the City County Building and Civic Coliseum Garage until 12:30 p.m.

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.

2. Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's Family is Growing

Hayley Howard, the Office of Neighborhood's (ONE) Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator, gave birth to a baby girl, Sutton Claire, on Thursday, April 18. Both mom and baby are doing well, other than mom being sleep deprived. Sutton also joins her big brother, Waylon, and dad, Collin Howard.

Hayley will return to work with ONE in mid-July.

3. Fourth and Gill Presents Tour of Homes and Secret Gardens

The **Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization** will present their [Tour of Homes and Secret Gardens](#) on Sunday, April 28, from 1 - 6 p.m. Tour "Check-In" begins at 12:30 p.m. at Central Methodist Church, 201 E. Third Ave.

Tickets can be purchased for \$20 by visiting the Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization's [website](#) between now and Saturday, April 27. You can also purchase a ticket the day of the event for \$25. Children ages 12 and under can participate free.

The tour includes six historic houses, including the impressive Gothic Revival architecture of Central United Methodist Church, along with two newly constructed houses and four open gardens for guest to enjoy. This self-guided tour offers each guest a guide booklet featuring tour locations and advertisements from sponsors.

If you have questions about the event, please email 4G.HomeTours@gmail.com.

4. Five Points Up Hosts Community Clean-Up

[Five Points Up](#) will host a community clean-up in East Knoxville on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

If you would like to participate, meet up with neighbors at the Eternal Life Harvest Center (ELHC), located at 2410 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, to pick up materials and equipment. Participants will then go back to their neighborhoods to clean-up and return to the ELHC by noon to enjoy a free lunch and a chance to engage with neighbors.

The event is also sponsored by the [Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee](#) and [Lions Club International](#).

For more information, please call 865-546-5125.

5. Holston Hills Plans Annual Garden Sale

The **Historic Holston Hills Community Club** is having its ninth Annual Garden Sale on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holston Hills Community Park, which is located at the intersection of Chilhowee Dr. and Holston Hills Rd.

Plant enthusiasts are encouraged to view the multitude of plants, herbs, flora, shrubs, and gardening accessories that will be available for sale, including perennial, annual, houseplants, and native plants. There will also be an area of fun garden treasures, tons of baked goods, and lots of plant talk.

All sales from this event will be used to maintain the Holston Hills Community Park.

6. Knoxville Joins in City Nature Challenge

The [Tennessee Butterfly Monitoring Network](#) and [Zoo Knoxville](#), in partnership with the City of Knoxville, [Discover Life in America](#), [Sierra Club](#), and [Ijams Nature Center](#) are coordinating the 2024 City Nature Challenge for the Knoxville area on Friday, April 26, thru Monday, April 29.

There will be events at Ijams Nature Center on Friday evening and Saturday all day so that folks can observe many kinds of wildlife. There will be a night hike to spot amphibians, and another to spot nocturnal critters. There will also be nature walks to identify fungi, trees, birds, wildflowers, beetles, bees, and butterflies. See Ijams Nature Center's [website](#) for the different workshops, schedules, and links to register.

When you register for the City Nature Challenge, you will get free parking at Ijams for the day! Volunteers will be on hand to show you how to observe wildlife using the iNaturalist app at www.iNaturalist.org.

Sunday you are encouraged to hike in a city, county, state, or national park and observe wildlife on your own. On Monday, you are encouraged to find wild areas to do this around your house or in your neighborhood.

The [City Nature Challenge](#) is a global event in which cities all over the world collaborate to observe as much wildlife – wild plants, animals, fungi, insects, etc. – as possible in a four-day period.

7. PARC Holds First Quarter Meeting

The [Police Advisory and Review Committee](#) (PARC) will convene for its first quarter meeting on Thursday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at the City County Building Small Assembly Room, 400 Main Street.

PARC receives complaints, investigates, hears cases, makes findings and discloses those findings to the Mayor and the Chief of Police.

Complaints can be made by any person who is a victim, a witness, or who has knowledge of alleged police misconduct, and filed by telephone, online, and/or in person by scheduling an appointment with the PARC Community Manager at 865-215-3869.

During its quarterly meetings, PARC members discuss cases that have been reviewed in the past three months.

People who wish to speak during public forum should use this [form to sign up to speak](#). Confirmed speakers will receive a confirmation email from PARC. Community members may also sign up in person the day of the meeting between 5:30-6 p.m.

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8. The BBB Cancelled and POH Meets This Week

There will not be a [Better Building Board](#) (BBB) meeting in April, as there is no business before the board.

The [Public Officer Hearing](#) (POH) will be on Friday, April 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

The POH new business/orders include:

- 1500 Coker Ave. – Accessory structure only
- 2715 East Fifth Ave.
- 4605 Lonas Dr. – including accessory structure
- 317 Macedonia Ln. – including accessory structure – Confirmation of emergency repair order only
- 3846 West Martin Mill Pike – Commercial
- 2821 Selma Ave.
- 6618 Vance Rd. – including accessory structures

There is one boarding approval needed for 4605 Lonas Dr.

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

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9. Housing and Neighborhood Development Wants Your Input

The City of Knoxville's [Housing and Neighborhood Development](#) is drafting its Program Year 2024 Annual Action Plan (AAP) update to its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

There will be a public meeting on Tuesday, April 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the City's Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Ave. A Zoom link for this meeting can be found on the [City's website](#).

All residents are encouraged to participate. If you are unable to attend the meeting, your feedback is still appreciated. The Draft AAP is available for review and public comment at [KnoxvilleTN.gov/Development](https://www.knoxville.gov/Development) under the "Reports and Plans" tab. Input will be accepted through Friday, April 26.

The AAP describes the proposed use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding for programs beginning July 1, 2024. The Plan will allocate funds across four priority areas: Affordable Housing; Homelessness; Creating Economic Opportunity; and Neighborhood Stabilization and Revitalization.

Residents can ask questions or comment on the Draft AAP by emailing Linda Rust, Community Development Administrator, at LRust@KnoxvilleTN.Gov.

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10. Public Meeting for Fair Housing Equity Plan is Saturday

The City of Knoxville's [Housing and Neighborhood Development](#) is hosting a meeting to update residents on the creation of the City's Fair Housing Equity Plan on Saturday, April 27, at 10 a.m. at the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine St. A Zoom Link for this meeting can be found on the [City's website](#).

This meeting is a follow-up to the one held March 12, which was covered by local television stations [WATE](#), [WBIR](#) and [WVLT](#).

The City of Knoxville is formulating an Equity Plan to identify fair housing issues in our community. As part of this process, we hope to hear from residents across Knoxville. This [survey](#) should take 5 minutes or less of your time to complete and will help us better understand community perceptions regarding housing challenges.

The City is developing a Fair Housing Equity Plan that will comply with HUD's "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)" proposed rule due to be

finalized/released in Spring 2024 and with the current HUD rule on affirmatively furthering fair housing. The AFFH mandate requires that recipients of HUD funding, like the City of Knoxville, proactively take meaningful actions to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, eliminate disparities in opportunities, and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination.

Once the draft Equity Plan is complete (approximately mid-May 2024), an additional public meeting will be held in conjunction with a 30-day public-comment period.

At the April 27 meeting, City staff and Community Solutions Collaborative (CSC) consultant Rob Breymaier will discuss initial findings, including data analysis, identification and description of fair housing issues, and gauge the community's considerations of which identified fair housing issues should be prioritized. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

All are welcome to attend.

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11. Mayor's Youth Council Applications Open Until April 30

Do you know any young people (rising 9th-12th graders) who want to boost their leadership skills, are passionate about civic engagement, and want to make an impact on their community? Encourage them to [apply to the Mayor's Youth Council!](#)

The Mayor's Youth Council was established in 2021 to create a platform for high-performing and high-potential young people to have meaningful and effective roles in the City's policy and decision-making processes. Currently, 15 high school students serve as members and work collaboratively to identify and address issues around community organizing, leadership, and advocacy. As representatives of Knoxville's youth, Council members will be responsible for elevating all youth voices through consistent communication with young people living in Knoxville. To learn more about Knoxville's Youth initiatives, visit the [Empower Knox webpage](#).

12. American Red Cross Offers Hands-Only CPR Training

Did you know that the [American Red Cross](#) offers Hands-Only CPR Training to neighborhoods at no cost?

In this 30-minute program, participants learn how to check for consciousness, call 911 or the local emergency number, and give continuous chest compressions. Having more resident bystanders trained in this simple skill can help save lives by putting more cardiac arrest victims within a few steps of lifesaving assistance. Certified CPR training is not provided through this course.

Fill out this [online form](#) to request a program presentation in your neighborhood.

For more information about free education on emergency preparedness provided by the American Red Cross, please contact James Pesterfield at james.pestterfield@redcross.org.

13. Trees Knoxville Schedules April Tree Walk

Join [Trees Knoxville](#) on Wednesday, April 24, for a Tree Walk led by Kayla Stuart to learn more about the [Tennessee Champion Trees Program](#) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood.

For more information, please contact Trees Knoxville at info@treesknoxville.org.

14. Champion Tree Nominations Due May 1

Do you believe you have seen the biggest oak, maple, tulip poplar or any other tree in your yard or community? Or do you know where one is located? Now is your chance to nominate it for recognition.

Nominations are now open for the biggest state tree through the Tennessee Champion Tree Program. This program is provided by the School of Natural Resources at the University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture (UT). All you have to do is fill out the form on [UT's website](#). Someone will contact you and then come out and measure the tree. **Nominations are open until Wednesday, May 1.** So go outside and look up!

If you have any questions, you can contact the City of Knoxville Tree Board at treeboard@knoxvilletn.gov.

15. National Bike and Roll to School Day is May 8

Join students and families around the country in getting active on the way to school by participating in [National Bike and Roll to School Day](#) on Wednesday, May 8.

Bike and Roll to School Day invites participants to celebrate the joy of active commuting while building a sense of community and school spirit. Whether addressing the need to make routes to school safer for active trips or encouraging children and teens to be more active, these events can be powerful tools to inspire lasting change. Of course, they are also fun!

For more information, please reach out to Bike Walk Knoxville Safe Routes to School Coordinator Julie Elfin at julie.elfin@bikewalktn.gov.

16. Why Does Topping Trees Hurt?

Topping is the indiscriminate cutting of tree branches to stubs or to lateral branches that are not large enough to assume the terminal role. Other names for topping include “heading”, tipping,” “hat-racking” and “rounding over.”

Topping is often done to reduce the size of a tree if a homeowner feels that the tree is getting too large for the property. Topping is not a viable method of height reduction and does not reduce future risk. In fact, topping can increase the risk in the long term.

Tree-topping can cause significant harm. When you top a tree, you remove a large portion of its crown or upper branches. This can lead to negative consequences.

- When a tree is topped, it may sprout weak branches prone to breaking, which can pose hazards.
- Too much pruning at the top can expose bark, which can lead to sunburn and decay.
- Topping diminishes the tree’s food production, temporarily starving the tree, can trigger various survival mechanisms, weakening it, and shortening its life.
- Topped trees often appear disfigured, which detracts from the natural beauty of the tree.
- Topping removes foliage vital for photosynthesis causing shock and stress. This makes the tree vulnerable to disease.
- Topping is expensive. It is not just the cost of having it done that you factor in, there are long-term costs of the damage done to the tree as well.

When pruning trees, it is important to find someone who can guide you. This can be a Master Gardener, a professional, etc.

Another way to minimize the need to control a tree’s size is to place the [Right Tree in the Right Place](#).

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

Call 865-215-3232 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

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.*