

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 9 – Wednesday, March 1, 2017

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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. Six Days Left to Register for the Neighborhood Conference

Three weeks down, one to go.

You have just six more days to pre-register for the FREE citywide Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, March 11, at the Knoxville Convention Center downtown.

The deadline is noon Tuesday, March 7. Don't wait. Do it now.

Over 400 people have now registered. Don't miss this high-energy gathering of residents, neighborhood leaders, governmental officials and others who care deeply about the quality of life in Knoxville's residential neighborhoods.

If you plan to attend, please help the Office of Neighborhoods by registering as soon as possible. By registering before noon on Tuesday, March 7, you can enjoy a free continental breakfast, a free lunch, a conference notebook, a swell name tag, and door prize tickets. These perks cannot be guaranteed for those who decide to wait until March 11 to register in person.

*** To register online, start at www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods and follow the links to the conference information page and the registration form.

*** Or call Inas Al-Sarmad at 215-2113 and register by phone.

*** Registrations submitted by mail should be postmarked no later than March 6.

2. Not Going? Look What You Will Be Missing!

The City of Knoxville's 2017 Neighborhood Conference --- free to all participants --- has been designed to provide attendees a total immersion experience in community-building, neighborhoods, networking, useful information, inspiration, and just plain fun.

Here are highlights and last-minute advisories:

- Be sure to [register in advance](#) --- before noon on March 7.
- Find out [where to park or how to ride KAT for free](#) to the conference.
- Be aware of the [schedule for the day](#). Doors open at 7:30 a.m., and the conference ends at 2:30 p.m. following door prize drawings.
- Check out descriptions of the [22 workshops](#), as well as profiles of the [70+ speakers](#) who will provide valuable insight on a wide variety of topics. There will be time to ask questions and join the discussion.
- Two workshops are aimed specifically at middle- and high-school-age youth who wish to hear more about local government and learn how to address issues in their communities.
- Look over the full list of [90-plus exhibitor booths](#) hosted by government agencies, nonprofit organizations and sponsors, all of whom are ready to provide you with useful information and new perspectives.
- See the list of [door prizes and door prize donors](#).
- Meet the [eight nominees](#) for the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award. Mayor Madeline Rogero will present the Award at the Luncheon.
- Also at the luncheon, Knoxville jazz and blues singer Kelle Jolly will lead a group of students who will sing blues songs the youth themselves have composed. And the winners of the [Neighborhood Tee Shirt Contest](#) will be announced.
- Visit the websites of the [14 conference sponsors](#) who have made this conference possible.
- If you live and vote in the City, plan to visit Candidates' Corner where you can meet some of the [candidates and potential candidates](#) for the five open seats on City Council this year. While there, you can register to vote at the Election Commission booth and learn about programs offered by the League of Women Voters.
- While at the conference, enjoy the continuous-loop slide show of photographs from neighborhood events across town.
- Neighborhood Conference-related Tweets and Instagram posts will be tagged with #KnoxNeighbors, and attendees will be invited to tag theirs, too.

- Encourage your neighbors to sign up, so you can all visit the Photo Booth, where you can don crazy hats, boas and other props to snap a once-in-a-lifetime goofy picture of your group.

Questions? Contact David Massey at 215-3232 or Debbie Sharp at 215-4382.

3. KEMA Deploys Emergency Contact Network

This morning (Wed. March 1), the Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) deployed the Emergency Contact Network because of the large storm system coming through the area.

The announcement went out by text message at 11:36 a.m. Volunteers were asked to stay alert and report any power outages, downed trees, or other hazards. The system worked well, with many volunteers texting that they were prepared to report back. Information provided by Network volunteers in area-wide emergencies is invaluable to KEMA as emergency services decide where resources are most needed.

If you would like to be an Emergency Contact Network volunteer, contact Wyatt Pless in the Office of Neighborhoods at wpless@knoxvilletn.gov.

4. Two Topics Scheduled for NAC's March Meeting

The Neighborhood Advisory Council will focus on two main topics at its regular monthly meeting at Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street, starting at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8.

Patience Melnik, executive director of [Keep Knoxville Beautiful](#) (KKB), will discuss some of its upcoming initiatives. KKB promotes litter eradication, recycling, and beautification efforts in Knox County communities using education, events, and volunteer engagement. It is very often involved in neighborhood cleanup efforts.

In addition, the NAC will discuss the criteria used by the Office of Neighborhoods to list organizations in the [Knoxville Neighborhood Directory](#). Should neighborhood groups be asked to meet certain minimum standards before they can be listed in the Directory? Ideas and suggestions on this question should be emailed to David Massey at dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

Appointed by the Mayor, the [NAC](#) meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except December) to discuss topics that affect Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. NAC meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

5. City Resumes Brush Collection

Per schedule, the Public Service Department has resumed brush pickup, which is put on hold from October through February during leaf season.

This past leaf season, crews collected 2,189 loads of leaves, weighing a total of 6,901 tons. Total weight of brush is even larger. In 2016, the City collected a total of more than 30,000 tons of yard waste, including brush and leaves.

To learn the brush pickup schedule for your street, call 311 (215-4311). Or go online – www.knoxvilletn.gov/311 -- and click on the “Brush Pickup Schedule” link. Yard waste placed at the curb must be kept separate from trash and be raked, cut up and placed in 6-by-6-by-6 foot piles. For more details, visit www.knoxvilletn.gov/publicservice.

6. Neighborhoods: Keep up with the MPC Agenda

Neighborhood groups are encouraged to stay on top of the agenda for various governmental bodies, including the Metropolitan Planning Commission, which makes critical decisions on zoning and land use in and around neighborhoods.

The agenda might include an issue impacting your neighborhood.

The preliminary agenda for the March 9 MPC has been “out” for two weeks. The full agenda will be posted later this week. Find both on [this MPC web page](#).

MPC Executive Director Gerald Green will be one of the speakers at the March 11 Neighborhood Conference. [See the workshop descriptions](#).

7. Bridge Refugee Services Plans March Events

[Bridge Refugee Services](#), the nonprofit organization that helps newcomers become new neighbors, is holding several fundraisers this month to continue supporting its 400 clients. Here, briefly, are details on each event.

International Women Art Benefit will be held on Friday, March 10, 5-9 p.m., at [The Hive](#), 854 N. Central St., to recognize and celebrate the resiliency of refugee women. Enjoy beautiful art, live music, local food and local businesses. Proceeds from art and ticket sales will benefit Bridge. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

International Food Festival will be held at [St. Luke’s Methodist Church](#), 3839 Buffat Mill Road, from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 18. Partake of food from around the world. Bring cash, please. Most vendors do not have card readers.

Photos, Pints, and Everything Nice will take place from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, March 26, at the [Crafty Bastard Brewery](#), 6 Emory Place. Customers can learn about Bridge and view a gallery of refugee family stories and portraits. One dollar paid for every pint will be donated to Bridge.

8. Judith Neff Passes Away in Ohio

Judith Neff, a former president of the Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization, passed away in Ohio in February. She and her husband had moved to Ohio in 2014 to be near their children.

“Judith was a remarkable woman known for her service to others, and she will be missed by many,” noted Jenny Wright, president of Fourth & Gill. “She made valuable contributions to our neighborhood and served on the neighborhood organization board for several years, with her last role being that of president from 2012-2014.” [Read the obituary](#).

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made to a children's charity. In addition, neighbors noted that Judith was a big supporter of [Centro Hispano](#) in Knoxville.

9. No Issue Next Week

This *Neighborhood Advisory* newsletter will not be published next week so that staff members of the Office of Neighborhoods can focus on preparations for the March 11 Neighborhood Conference.

10. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar (clickable to 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 scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact the City Law Department at 865-215-2050.

Other Calendars

Here are several 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)
- [Birdhouse Community Center](#)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)
- [Knoxville Mercury](#) (weekly community paper)

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>*

*** Don't have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*