



**Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 32 – Tuesday, August 29, 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. Tonight: City Council to Consider Short-Term Rental Ordinance**

The proposed short-term rental ordinance is back on the agenda for the City Council meeting that begins at 6 p.m. today --- Tuesday, Aug. 29 --- in the Large Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

The proposed ordinance establishes standards for short term rentals (STR) of less than 30 days, such as those arranged through online platforms like Airbnb and Vacations Rentals by Owner. City staff developed the ordinance following months of research, public input, and public comment.

The proposed ordinance would not be part of the Zoning Ordinance; if adopted it would be codified in Chapter 16 of the City of Knoxville Code of Ordinances. STR's would be permitted in all zoning districts by the proposed ordinance, but would be limited to owner-occupied residences in the residential zoning districts. A permitting system would be established for STR's and all STR's would be subject to applicable taxes.

[See the background information](#), including a link to the proposed ordinance.

## **2. Mayor Launches Weekly Newsletter**

Mayor Madeline Rogero and the City's Communications Department have launched a new weekly email called "From the Desk of Mayor Madeline Rogero."

The brief email newsletter will feature news and updates on the Mayor's activities and perspectives on City events and issues.

To receive this email, which will be delivered every Monday morning (except holidays), click <http://bit.ly/SubscribeMayorNews> to subscribe. If you ever decide you no longer want to receive the email, you can easily unsubscribe by clicking unsubscribe at the bottom of each email.

## **3. Labor Day: No Change to Garbage and Recycling Schedule**

City of Knoxville offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for the Labor Day holiday, but the city's hauling contractor, Waste Connections, will run its regular residential garbage and recycling routes, so pickup days will not change next week.

Downtown trash and recycling will run on its regular schedule throughout the Labor Day weekend. The City's recycling centers will be open for recycling use; the Goodwill attendant will not be available for household goods donations on Monday.

The City's Solid Waste Management Facility located at 1033 Elm Street will be closed on Saturday, Sept. 2 and Monday, Sept. 4. Amnesty Saturday – normally held on the first Saturday of each month --- will be held at the Solid Waste Management Facility on Saturday, Sept. 9, instead. Amnesty Saturday is open to City residents only.

[See this city web page](#) for lots of details on disposal of bulky waste, brush pickup, what can and cannot be recycled, and other details of the City's solid waste management programs.

## **4. Parks & Rec Seeks Proposals for Challenge Grants**

The City of Knoxville's Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for its 2017-2018 Challenge Grant Program, which offers grants to nonprofit projects associated with public parks or recreation facilities within the City limits.

The grants are available this year to 501(c)3, 501(c)4 and 501(c)6 status community groups, neighborhood associations, schools, Scout troops and other organizations.

Recipients of a challenge grant will be reimbursed 50 percent of the cost of a single project, up to \$2,500.

Previously, the grants have been used for projects such as playground equipment, water fountains, benches and landscaping. The Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department has been awarding Challenge Grants to nonprofit groups for more than 25 years.

The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 15, 2017. Applicants will be notified and announced by late October 2017. All project work must be completed by Friday, April 30, 2018. [See the grant guidelines and applications](#). Questions may be directed to 311 or 865-215-4311.

## **5. Learn How to Use KGIS Maps, Neighborhood Maps**

A workshop on how to make full use of [www.kgis.org](http://www.kgis.org) will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at the City's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue.

KGIS --- the Knoxville, Knox County, KUB Geographical Information System --- operates the multi-layered website.

Wi-Fi is available. The first 15 participants to bring a laptop will be able to log on to the website during the workshop. If you plan to attend, please notify Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or leave your name and contact information at 215-2113.

Why is this workshop important to neighborhood organizations? Simply because KGIS can answer lots of questions that you and your members may need to know. These questions include:

- \*\* Who owns that house up the street?
- \*\* Are taxes paid up on the blighted house down the street?
- \*\* What is the zoning in our neighborhood?
- \*\* What school zone are we in?
- \*\* Who is our state representative?
- \*\* Are we in a FEMA flood zone?
- \*\* How can I see if a property in our neighborhood is on the next MPC agenda?

In addition to picking up tips and understanding how to use various tools and applications, participants will learn how to navigate the newest KGIS app – the [Neighborhood Groups Viewer](#), which maps the boundaries of neighborhood groups in the city.

Staff from KGIS and the Office of Neighborhoods will conduct the workshop, which will end no later than 8 p.m.

## **6. Wednesday: Learn about Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program**

The City of Knoxville will hold a public meeting on the new **Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program** (NTSP) at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, at the City's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue.

At this meeting, city officials will describe the new program, address questions, and announce the September launch date. Details can be found in this [final draft](#) of the Program Guide. The City will use the [Major Road Plan](#) to identify local streets and minor collectors that are eligible for consideration under the NTSP. If you can, please bring your own copy of these documents to the meeting.

## **7. Thursday: Public Meeting on Cell Phone Towers**

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. this coming Thursday, Aug. 31, at the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine St., to explain proposed new ordinances governing the siting of cell phone towers in Knoxville and Knox County.

A cell phone tower could be coming to your neighborhood. Now is the time to understand what local authorities can and cannot do when a cell tower company requests permission to locate a tower in or near your neighborhood. For details and the text of both the city and county ordinances, see [this MPC web page](#).

## **8. Votes Require a Revised Meeting Schedule for Parkridge Overlay**

An effort to expand the historic overlay district in the Parkridge neighborhood now has a new public meeting schedule following decisions made by the Historic Zoning Commission ([HZC](#)) at its August 17 meeting.

The HZC voted 6-1 that the proposed Edgewood-Park City H-1 expansion area in Parkridge is historically worthy of an H-1 Historic District Zoning Overlay. However, at the same time, HZC postponed a vote on adopting the new guidelines for the entire district until the comments from the August 17 meeting can be addressed and more input can be obtained.

The video of the three-hour meeting can be viewed on the Community Television website. Browse to <http://www.ctvknox.org/>. In the "LiveStream" section, click on "Mixed Local Government" and then on "HistZoning Aug1717."

Assuming the HZC adopts revised guidelines at its Sept. 21 meeting, the overlay proposals and guidelines will be heard at the Oct. 12 meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). MPC will mail notices about the meeting to property owners in the target expansion area.

MPC's recommendation and the underlying HZC recommendation will be heard by City Council later this fall, perhaps as early as Nov. 7. City Council has the final say on zoning matters. An affirmative vote by City Council, at two separate meetings, is typically required for a proposed zoning ordinance to become law.

Any revisions to the Guidelines will be posted online. The current design guidelines draft may be viewed [here](#). All MPC documents related to the H1 overlay proposal are located at <http://www.knoxmpc.org/edgewood-parkcity>, where upcoming meetings will be posted.

For more, contact Kaye Graybeal, historic information officer for MPC, at 215-3795 or [kaye.graybeal@knoxmpc.org](mailto:kaye.graybeal@knoxmpc.org).

## **9. BBB to Consider Five Blighted Properties**

Five properties are on the agenda for this week's Better Building Board (BBB) meeting at 3:30 p.m. this Thursday, August 31, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

They are 450 Cedar Avenue, 1127 Colonial Avenue, 2122 Harvey Street, 6208 King Road, and 2227 Peachtree Street.

Neighbors affected by these properties may wish to be present to testify on their impact on the neighborhood. [See a full copy of the BBB agenda](#), with details and owner information on each property.

Under the Chronic Problem Properties ordinance, the City's Community Development Department is seeking a determination of blight on all five properties. If the BBB first determines and then later certifies that a property is blighted, and if the owner fails to take corrective action, the City can then acquire the property at fair market value, using its eminent domain powers if necessary.

Blighted properties acquired by the city are listed for sale through Community Development's [Homemaker's Program](#).

## **10. Testify on Blighted Properties at Public Officer Hearing**

Twenty properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. this Friday, September 1.

Neighbors affected by these properties may wish to be present to testify on their impact on the neighborhood.

The Public Officer --- David Brace, director of the Public Service Department --- 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](#) and, ultimately, to Chancery Court.

The properties to be heard for repair/demolition orders are: 106 Alice Street, 209 South Central Street (commercial property), 517 East Emerald Avenue, 6108 Flint Road – pool only, 2506 Harvey Street, 533 Hiawassee Avenue, 2936 Lay Avenue, 1314 Louisiana Avenue, 2932 East Magnolia Avenue, 4938 West Martin Mill Pike, 1222 East Moody Avenue, 2445 Parkview Avenue, 2215 Sandusky Road, 2340 Stonewall Street, and 2554 Woodbine Avenue.

In addition, there will be a hearing for confirmation of previously issued emergency repair and/or demolition orders for 710 Irwin Street (commercial), 1221 Laurel Avenue, 5315 Marguerite Road, 2223 Mississippi Avenue, and 412 East Scott Avenue.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, 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. [See the full September 1 agenda](#), with details on each property.

**11. 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 [scCook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scCook@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)
- [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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